

## **2026 USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS RULE #21**

**Rule #21: PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS, NATIONAL TOUR TITLISTS, COLLEGIATE BOWLERS AND MEMBERS OF AN ADULT NATIONAL TEAM**  
*Open Championships Rules*

- A. For the purpose of participation in the Open Championships, **PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS [21-A]** are defined as: Any bowler, under the age of 60, having applied for membership or held membership in ANY professional bowling organization during the following time frames:
- 1) Calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2025) preceding the event; and or
  - 2) Up through their first day of competition at the Open Championships in 2026.
- B. For the purpose of participation in the Open Championships, **NATIONAL TOUR TITLISTS [21-B]** are defined as: Any bowler, under the age of 60, who has won any of the following:
- 1) A PBA or PWBA national tour title regardless of professional status at the time of the win.
  - 2) A USBC Masters or U.S. Open title.
  - 3) A USBC Queens or U.S. Women’s Open title.
- C. For the purpose of participation in the Open Championships, **COLLEGIATE BOWLERS [21-C]** are defined as: Any bowler currently holding a collegiate bowling membership or student-athlete affiliated with any college bowling program (NCAA, NJCAA, NAIA, Club, etc.) during the following time frames:
- 1) The 2025-2026 collegiate bowling season; and or
  - 2) Calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2025) preceding the event; and or
  - 3) Up through their first day of competition at the Open Championships in 2026.
- D. For the purpose of participation in the Open Championships, members of an **ADULT NATIONAL TEAM [21-D]** are defined as: Any current or past member of Team USA, or any other International Federation’s **ADULT NATIONAL TEAM**, under the age of 60, who was on the team within the past 10 years (2016 – 2026).

The following designations do NOT fall under this rule:

- 1) Para Team USA; and
- 2) Members of Junior Team USA; and or
- 3) Any age-restricted classifications commonly known as "Juniors," "Masters," "Seniors," "Veterans" or other similarly designated age-restricted competitions.

**E. PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS, NATIONAL TOUR TITLISTS, COLLEGIATE BOWLERS AND ADULT NATIONAL TEAM MEMBERS** (as defined above) will be eligible to compete **ONLY** in the REGULAR DIVISION subject to the following guidelines:

### **1) TEAM EVENT**

- a. A team may only have one **NATIONAL TOUR TITLIST**. If a team has a bowler who meets the criteria of a NATIONAL TOUR TITLIST as defined in item [21-B], the team may NOT also have a bowler who meets the criteria of a:
  - i. PROFESSIONAL BOWLER [21-A]
  - ii. NATIONAL TOUR TITLIST [21-B]
  - iii. COLLEGIATE BOWLER [21-C]
  - iv. ADULT NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER [21-D]
- b. A team may be comprised of any combination of two (2), but no more than two, players defined who meet the criteria of a:
  - i. PROFESSIONAL BOWLER [21-A]
  - ii. COLLEGIATE BOWLER [21-C]
  - iii. ADULT NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER [21-D]
- c. A team may be comprised of up to five (5) bowlers who meet the criteria of a **COLLEGIATE BOWLER** as defined in item [21-C], provided there are NO bowlers on the team who meet the criteria of a:
  - i. PROFESSIONAL BOWLER [21-A]
  - ii. NATIONAL TOUR TITLIST [21-B]
  - iii. ADULT NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER [21-D]

### **2) DOUBLES**

- a. There may not be more than ONE bowler per doubles team who meet the criteria of a:
  - i. PROFESSIONAL BOWLER [21-A]
  - ii. NATIONAL TOUR TITLIST [21-B]
  - iii. COLLEGIATE BOWLER [21-C]
  - iv. ADULT NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER [21-D]

- b. However, a doubles team may be comprised of two (2) bowlers who meet the criteria of a **COLLEGIATE BOWLER** as defined in item [21-C].

### **3) SINGLES and ALL-EVENTS**

- a. Each player is eligible to enter singles and all-events ONLY in the Regular Division who meet the criteria of a:
  - i. PROFESSIONAL BOWLER [21-A]
  - ii. NATIONAL TOUR TITLIST [21-B]
  - iii. COLLEGIATE BOWLER [21-C]
  - iv. ADULT NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER [21-D]

### **4) BRACKETS**

- a. Each player is eligible for daily and yearlong bracket products ONLY in the Regular Division, regardless of whether they fit the average criteria for another division who meet the criteria of a:
  - i. PROFESSIONAL BOWLER [21-A]
  - ii. NATIONAL TOUR TITLIST [21-B]
  - iii. COLLEGIATE BOWLER [21-C]
  - iv. ADULT NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER [21-D]
  
- b. Each player also is eligible for any age-based products for which they qualify.