



2025 U.S. Open Rules

(All rules for the 2025 U.S. Open 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.

The 2025 U.S. Open is USBC-certified. The game of American tenpins will be played.

This is a scratch singles tournament with qualifying rounds, round-robin match play and stepladder finals.

All participants give USBC their unqualified permission to use their photograph for publicity purposes, to arrange for the telecasts or broadcasts of the tournament without cost to the participant and without sharing revenue derived therefrom with them.

Rule 1 - ELIGIBILITY

- A. All participants must be current USBC members with a minimum average of 190.
- B. If current membership cannot be verified, a USBC Associate membership card must be purchased at the tournament site.
- C. Current and former PBA and/or PWBA members must be in good standing with the PBA and/or PWBA.
- D. All participants 18 years of age or older as of the last day of competition who are competing in either the PTQ or U.S. Open must be current on their SafeSport training.
- E. Youth Members:
 - 1. Must sign a USBC Prize Waiver (available on-site). Tournament winnings will be deposited in the SMART scholarship program unless the player waives claim to his/her winnings.
 - 2. Under 18 as of the start of the tournament must have a USBC Parental Consent Form (available on BOWL.com) on file with tournament management prior to the first day of competition.
 - 3. Who have not reached their 16th birthday by the first official day of competition must be a current member of Junior Team USA, PBA or PWBA or can petition tournament management for acceptance into the tournament. The petition must be submitted in writing to tournament management 30 days prior to the start of the tournament. Bowlers entering under these conditions must alert tournament staff upon submitting their entry.
- F. Collegiate bowlers should verify prize acceptance policies with their compliance offices prior to participating in the competition.

Rule 2 - CRITERIA FOR ENTRY

Bowlers who decline their invitation or do not pay their entry fees by Dec. 12, 2024, will lose their spot in the field.

- A. Bowlers qualify for entry in the 2025 U.S. Open based on the following criteria, in the following, order:
 - 1. U.S. Open winners, last 10 years
 - 2. USBC Masters winners, last three years
 - 3. PBA World Championship winners, last three years



4. PBA Tournament of Champions winners, last three years
 5. PBA Players Championship winners, last three years
 6. USBC Open Championships Regular All-Events winners, last three years
 7. 2024 USBC Senior Masters winner
 8. 2024 PBA50 Senior U.S. Open winner
 9. 2024 U22 Masters winner
 10. Intercollegiate Singles Championships men's winners, last two years
 11. 2024 U.S. Open, top five finishers
 12. PBA Members – Exempt Field and Points list:
 - a. PBA Member Exempt field for the 2024-2025 Season
 - b. Individuals who are 44th-63rd on the PBA points list as of Oct. 1, 2024Note: In 2026, only the exempt field will automatically qualify for the U.S. Open
 13. 2024 Men's U.S. Amateur, top three men's finishers
 14. 2024 Team USA (men) and Junior Team USA (boys) members
 14. Winner of each (up to 2) U.S. Open regional qualifier
 15. BPAA exemption
 16. Remainder of field will be filled through an on-site pre-tournament qualifier.
 - Individuals who are signed up for the pre-tournament-qualifier who are bowling on the PBA TV show the day before the event.
- B. **PTQ** - A pre-tournament qualifier will be conducted to qualify those not pre-qualified and will feature one eight-game block.
1. Total pins determining finishing position and qualification into the U.S. Open.
 2. Entry fee is \$500.
 - a. Players not making the field for the U.S. Open will be returned half of their entry fee upon the completion of the qualifier.
 - b. Each PTQ entry will count as half of a U.S. Open entry and will be added to the U.S. Open prize fund.
 3. PTQ field size is limited to 108 entries
 4. Anyone planning on running a local qualifier/win-a-spot can still do so but would be buying a spot into the on-site qualifier, not directly into the U.S. Open. The cost to enter the qualifier is \$500 and should be done early as spots are limited. Proprietor or tournament operator then must call the U.S. Open staff to change the entry to the winner's name. If the bowler does not advance to the U.S. Open field, \$250 would be refunded.
 5. Alternates for qualifying - 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.
 - a. Alternates may participate in the official practice sessions.
 - b. Alternates must be present at roll call for each squad.
 - c. In case of a withdrawal or no-show, alternates will be placed into competition based on order of finish.

Rule 3 - PRO-AM

All players must be available to participate in at least one pro-am, as needed.



Rule 4 - SQUADS

- A. All efforts will be made to post the tournament roster on BOWL.com four weeks in advance of the tournament with updates occurring on a weekly basis.
- B. Squad assignments will be posted on the official tournament webpage no later than seven days prior to the first day of qualifying. It is the bowler's responsibility to verify what squad they are on before the start of competition.
- C. Squad requests will not be accepted.

Rule 5 - PRACTICE SESSIONS

- A. Official practice will consist of four sessions.
 - 1. The first four 90-minute sessions will be available to all bowlers.
 - a. The first session will feature Pattern 1.
 - b. The second session will feature Pattern 2.
 - c. The third session will feature Pattern 3.
 - d. The fourth session will feature Pattern 4.
 - 2. There will be an additional 30-minute practice session featuring Pattern 4 prior to the Match Play Round. Only competitors advancing are eligible for this session.
- B. There are no lane assignments for the practice sessions. Bowlers are free to move around the venue.
- C. Prior to each squad, a minimum of 20 minutes of warmup will be available for the upcoming squad on the designated practice pairs, separate from the competition pairs. These lanes will be designated by tournament management.
- D. Prior to each squad and following pre-squad announcements, competitors will be permitted one ball on each of their starting lanes.

Rule 6 - DRESS CODE

- A. The dress code for the official practice session and sweepers will be the same as the tournament dress code.**
 - B. Appropriate Attire
 - 1. A collared shirt with the participant's name on the back must be worn during every round of competition, practice, pro-am and sweeper. Mock turtlenecks or bowling jerseys without collars are allowed.
 - a. Lettering must be at least 2 inches in height and contrasting color to your shirt color.
 - b. Detachable name plaques of any kind are not acceptable. Names may be embroidered, silk-screened, ironed on or sublimated.
 - c. Small fashion logos are permitted on apparel during USBC competition as long as they do not exceed 9 square inches. Logos are defined as any lettering and/or any illustration promoting a company, product and service or membership organization. Pro shop logos are permitted as long as they do not exceed 9 square inches.
- Exception:** If there is a televised portion of the event and that portion is produced by PBA, then PBA logo rules will apply to the televised portion of the tournament.
- 2. Men must wear dress slacks.
 - 3. Women may wear dress slacks, shorts, skirts or skorts. Length of skirt, skorts or shorts must be below the bowler's fingertips when she is standing and her arms are hanging down at her side. No exceptions.



C. Prohibited Attire

1. Examples of prohibited attire includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Tank tops, halter tops, bare midriffs, spaghetti strap tops, hats. Hats are permitted for documented medical conditions only.
 - b. Workout attire, including leggings, short shorts, short skirts, bib overalls, T-shirts.
 - c. Cords, jeans or any kind of denim.
2. Bowlers will be required to change if attire is deemed inappropriate by tournament management.
3. Tournament management's decision regarding appropriate dress will be final.

D. Non-Competition Dress Code while in the tournament venue.

1. All competitors' clothing shall be presentable, neat and clean, similar to that of modern business casual attire.
 - i. Acceptable attire includes but is not limited to:
 1. Men – Slacks, jeans, dress shorts, collared/polo shirt, sweaters, crew neck bowling-branded shirt and closed-toed shoes.
 2. Women – Skirts, skorts, jeans, dress shorts, slacks, blouses, sweaters, collared/polo shirt, crew neck bowling-branded shirt and dress or closed-toed shoes.
 - ii. Prohibited attire includes but is not limited to:
 1. 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.

Rule 7 - FEES

- A. Entry fee is \$500. There is a \$25 processing fee for all entries not done online.
- B. In order to withdraw before the start of the tournament, the competitor must notify the tournament director in writing.
- C. Refund Policy
 - a. A refund will be given:
 - i. less \$50 cancellation fee, if written notice is received prior to Dec. 26, 2024
 - ii. less a \$100 cancellation fee, if written notice is received between Dec. 26, 2024, and Jan. 19, 2025.
 - b. No refund will be given if written notice is received after Jan. 19, 2025.

Rule 8 - PRIZE MONEY AND AWARDS

- A. The prize ratio will be at least one (1) for every three (3) entrants (1:3).
- B. The only sums to which a participant will be entitled for bowling in this tournament are those prizes or awards which may be won by the participant in this tournament.
- C. Funds will be paid out within 30 days of the conclusion of the tournament.
 1. Participants who have elected to receive an automatic deposit and completed the EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) form will have their money deposited according to the information provided on the completed EFT form.
 2. Those not electing to receive prize money via EFT will have their prize checks mailed to them to the address supplied at registration.



D. The IRS requires USBC to furnish 1099 forms to individuals who accumulate winnings of \$600 or more annually in any USBC event(s) in which they participate. Therefore, Social Security numbers are required by IRS regulations.

E. Failure to furnish a Social Security number (U.S. citizens) or Individual Tax ID Number-ITIN (non-U.S. citizens) to USBC will result in a 30% tax reduction of the prize check.

F. If for any reason a bowler wishes to waive the prize money, it is the participant's responsibility to notify tournament staff in writing at time of registration regarding their refusal of the prize money. If the prize money is waived, the amount will be returned to the prize fund for distribution.

Rule 9 - LANE ASSIGNMENTS

Lane assignments will be posted in the equipment storage room.

Rule 10 - LANE OIL PATTERN

A. Patterns will be Sport-compliant and posted at the tournament venue no later than the start of each official practice session.

B. Oiling times and practice schedule for the stepladder will be determined and published at a later date.

Rule 11 – EQUIPMENT STORAGE ROOM

A. Only tournament bowlers, USBC staff members and approved ball company representatives are permitted to enter the equipment storage room and use all equipment. NO EXCEPTIONS.

B. Only bowling balls designated on a Bowler's Equipment Registration Form for the current round of competition will be permitted in the equipment storage room at any time.

C. Ball-limit restrictions will be enforced by the tournament director. Bowlers will be fined \$50 per ball over 10 in the equipment storage room and all additional balls will be removed from the center.

D. Security – The equipment storage room will be locked one (1) hour after the end of competition each day and opened one (1) hour prior to the start of each day's competition.

Rule 12 – BOWLING BALLS

A. All bowling balls must meet USBC specifications and be on the list of USBC-approved balls posted on BOWL.com.

1. 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

2. It is the player's responsibility to ensure all equipment is eligible for competition.

a. PWBA product registration rules apply.

b. Any bowler may request to have their bowling balls checked prior to competition.

c. Plugged bowling balls are allowed.

3. If a competitor uses a bowling ball not on the list of USBC-approved balls list or one that does not meet USBC specification, the bowler will be disqualified from the tournament.



B. Bowling Equipment Registration

1. All Bowler's Equipment Registration Forms are due to tournament staff by A Squad roll call, no exceptions. **No changes to the form are permitted once A Squad roll call begins.**
 - a. Bowlers will be allowed a maximum of 10 bowling balls to be registered. Only those 10 balls are permitted in the center or in the locker room during competition.
 - b. Bowling balls must be presented for verification by tournament staff when the Bowler's Equipment Registration Form is turned in.
 - c. Adjustments to the form are permitted as follows:
 - 1) After Qualifying Round 3, the Bowler's Equipment Registration Form can be adjusted while maintaining the 10-ball maximum.
 - 2) After the cut to the TV stepladder finals, the Bowler's Equipment Registration Form can be adjusted while maintaining the 10-ball maximum.
2. Once a ball card is submitted, no alterations affecting the weight or balance of a ball may be made.
3. Balls marked incorrectly on a player's card are subject to fines and/or Code of Conduct violations (See Rules 29 and 30).
4. A competitor is subject to disqualification and forfeiture of all points and prize money earned from the tournament if any bowling ball recorded on the competitor's scoring recap or ball card:
 - a. Cannot be produced within thirty (30) minutes of being requested by the tournament director.
 - b. Does not meet specifications as stated in Chapter 8 of the USBC Playing Rules or the USBC Equipment Specifications and Certifications Manual.
 - c. Is knowingly tampered with to no longer meet USBC specifications as stated in the USBC Equipment Specifications and Certifications Manual (USBC Rule 17a-1).
- C. Hole adjustments are permitted at the discretion of tournament management. However, the ball must be taken to the warm-up lanes or locker room, and a tournament official must be notified prior to any adjustments.
- D. For all balls drilled after the official practice day, all ball information must be completed. Once the ball is picked up, a tournament official must be notified and the ball card updated appropriately prior to placing the ball in play.
- E. In the event a player's bowling ball is damaged during tournament play in such a fashion that it will not meet USBC specifications, the player must notify the tournament director, and the ball must be immediately taken out of play. Tournament staff will determine if the participant can replace the ball on the ball card or if it can be repaired. If a ball is damaged beyond repair and removed from competition the replacement ball cannot be put into play until the next round.
- F. Random bowling ball checking may be done as deemed necessary by tournament management.
 1. If a competitor suspects a bowling ball used by another competitor does not meet specifications or was tampered with, they must inform the tournament director in writing. The tournament director reserves the right to request evidence the participant violated Rule 17a-1 before securing the ball for inspection.
 2. The tournament director will notify the competitor and inspect the bowling ball in question at a time of the tournament director's choosing. A decision will be rendered as soon as the appropriate measurements or USBC field tests can be completed.



3. If the ball passes inspection, the competitor who requested the inspection will be assessed a Code of Conduct violation and possible discipline. The decision of the tournament director shall be final.
 4. If the ball fails inspection, the ball shall be removed from competition and confiscated to prevent further use. Competitor shall only be subject to disqualification if there is a Rule 17 violation.
- G. 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 on the practice pairs but NEVER while on competition pairs, including during match play. In addition, all sanding products must be removed from the competition area (i.e., Abralon, sandpaper, etc.).

NOTE: The tournament director may allow a player to remove foreign substances from the bowling ball surface with authorized cleaners on a case-by-case basis.

Rule 13 - FORMAT

- A. **Qualifying Round** - Each entrant will bowl three blocks of eight games each.
1. Twelve (12) pairs of lanes will be used for competition with no more than three bowlers on a pair.
 2. A minimum of three pairs of lanes not used for competition will be available for warmup prior to each squad.
 3. Each bowler's 24-game total will be used to determine advancers to match play competition
 4. If there is a tie for the final position needed to complete the field for match play:
 - a. One complete game shall be bowled on a neutral pair, selected by the tournament director, following the final block of qualifying.
 - 1) The bowler with the highest qualifying block chooses the starting lane, and the bowler on the odd lane will start.
 - 2) Bowlers shall have 10 minutes of practice.
 - b. If a tie still exists at the end of the game, a one-ball roll-off will be bowled on the same pair of lanes to break the tie with each bowler starting on the lane where they finished the match. Should a tie exist after the first ball and/or subsequent balls, the bowlers will continue to switch lanes until the tie is broken. The bowler on the odd lane will start.
 - c. Roll-Off Deadline - Any competitor scheduled for a roll-off who is not in the host center within 30 minutes of the announcement of the tie will be disqualified from the roll-off.
 5. In the event of a tie for any other position, ties shall be broken in the following order:
 - a. Highest qualifying block.
 - b. Next-highest qualifying block(s) total.
 - c. Highest game of qualifying.
 - d. Next-highest qualifying game(s).
- B. **Match Play** - The top 24 bowlers will advance to round-robin match play.
1. Bowlers making the 24-person match-play field will bowl 24 one-game matches.
 2. Each bowler will bowl every other bowler in the field once with the final match being a position round (i.e., first place bowls second, third bowls fourth, etc.).
 3. The winner of each match will receive 30 bonus pins in addition to their pinfall for the game. If a match ends in a tie, each bowler will be awarded 15 bonus pins.
 4. This pinfall is added to their total from qualifying, and a running total shall be kept.



5. At the conclusion of match play, the top nine bowlers according to pinfall, including bonus pins, will be seeded into a stepladder.

C. **Stepladder Finals**

1. The stepladder finals will be a single-elimination format.
2. Positions are determined by seed according to final pinfall total, including bonus pins, after round-robin match play.
3. If there is a tie among stepladder finalists:
 - a. Ties that affect stepladder placement – All tied competitors will compete in a one-game roll-off. The competitor with the highest scratch total pinfall has choice of starting lane for the roll-off. If a tie exists for scratch total pinfall, a coin toss will be used to determine the starting lane.
 - b. If the tie does not affect stepladder placement but does affect which competitor chooses the starting lane for the match, then a one-ball, sudden-death roll-off will be used to break the tie. The competitor with the highest scratch total pinfall has choice of starting lane for the roll-off. If a tie exists for scratch total pinfall, a coin toss will be used to determine the starting lane.
4. Positions No. 9 and No. 8 will bowl a one-game match, with that winner advancing to bowl against No. 7, and so on, until all bowlers have bowled
5. If a match ends in a tie, competitors will compete in a one-ball, sudden-death roll-off. The highest-seeded competitor shall determine the 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.

Rule 14 - ALTERNATE FOR MATCH PLAY

- A. Any competitor who qualifies for the match-play alternate position must inform the tournament director of the decision to accept or decline the position within 15 minutes of the official announcement.
 1. If a competitor voluntarily declines to serve as alternate, he or she shall relinquish the alternate's fee and be replaced by the next available competitor based upon finish position.
 2. The alternate must be present for all roll calls.
 3. The alternate must be prepared to enter competition on short notice and shall remain in the host center throughout competition.
- B. In the case of a tie for the alternate position for match play, the competitor with the highest qualifying block score will be given the alternate position.
- C. Substitution Procedures
 1. The alternate competitor may enter the tournament in place of a match-play finalist at the discretion of the tournament director in the case of injury, sickness or emergency subject to the following procedures:
 - a. The alternate will receive four (4) warm-up shots on a pair determined by the tournament director.
 - b. The alternate's scores shall be computed using her own qualifying total plus the scratch match-play total of the competitor being replaced.
 - c. Both the alternate and the competitor being replaced shall receive an amount of prize money equal to one-half the sum designated for the final position of the alternate and that designated for the position the alternate occupied prior to match play.



- D. When an alternate enters competition, a new alternate shall be identified.
 - 1. The next-highest finisher in the host center will be offered the alternate position until it is filled.
 - 2. If a suitable replacement cannot be found and a subsequent match-play withdrawal occurs, the bowler remaining will bowl against a blind score equivalent to the bowler's qualifying average less 10 pins.

Rule 15 - TOURNAMENT ROLL CALL

- A. Roll call will be called 45 minutes prior to Round 1 and prior to the first round of match play.
- B. Additional roll calls may be scheduled at the discretion of the tournament director.
- C. Players are considered to have been tardy or missed roll call if they do not acknowledge their presence during roll call.

Rule 16 - START OF COMPETITION

The definition of the "start of competition" is when any participant's first ball is thrown for score during qualifying, match play and the stepladder finals.

Rule 17 - WITHDRAWING AFTER THE TOURNAMENT HAS STARTED

Any competitor who wishes to withdraw while the tournament is in progress must notify the bowlers on his or her pair and then receive permission from the tournament director. Failure to comply will result in a Conduct Violation.

Rule 18 - LANE COURTESY

Competitors must observe one-pair lane courtesy at all times and shall not "double-jump." Double-jumping occurs following a delivery when a competitor on the same pair delivers his or her ball before one competitor from the pair to the right and one competitor from the pair to the left have made a delivery unless those competitors are not ready to bowl.

Rule 19 - RE-RACKS

- A. Each bowler is allowed to take two re-racks per game during qualifying and match play.
- B. Additional re-racks may be granted with tournament management's permission.

Rule 20 - 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.
 - 1. An alternate pair shall be used whenever possible when awarding warmup in the event of a breakdown.
 - 2. 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.
- B. 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 tournament management.
- C. If pair is repaired, it will remain out of play for all squads unless a re-oil occurs. The pair may be brought back in to play if needed due to additional breakdowns.



Rule 21 – TARDY PLAYER

- A. If a bowler is late for his or her squad during any round other than the first round of the tournament, he or she will receive zero for each frame missed.
- B. If a bowler is not available to bowl at the official starting time posted for his or her first round, the bowler will be disqualified and replaced by the next standby in line in the tournament venue. If the first person on the standby list is not present, a sliding scale will be used to fill the open spots.
- C. Bowlers who are late for an earlier squad will not be moved to a later squad except for extreme circumstances.

Rule 22 - SLOW PLAY

- A. Bowlers are responsible to pace themselves accordingly with the pairs in front of them.
 - 1. A competitor shall have 25 seconds to start his or her delivery once the lane courtesy requirement has been satisfied.
 - 2. No warm-up shots will be awarded for slow bowling.
- B. Slow bowling penalties will be assessed at the discretion of the tournament director.

Rule 23 – DEAD BALL SITUATIONS

The tournament director must be called and will make all decisions regarding dead ball situations.

- A. **Bowling on the Wrong Lane** - Bowling on the wrong lane constitutes a potential dead ball situation provided it is protested before the offending competitor (or his or her opponent in match play) bowls again.
 - 1. If a competitor rolls a strike on the wrong lane, he or she must bowl again on the correct lane.
 - 2. If the competitor does not strike, his or her pin count will stand, and he or she must shoot the spare on the same lane.
- B. **Bowling Out of Turn** - Bowling out of turn constitutes a potential dead ball situation provided it is protested before the offending competitor (or his or her opponent in match play) bowls again.
 - 1. If a competitor rolls a strike out of turn, he or she must bowl again in the correct order of play.
 - 2. If the competitor does not strike, his or her pin count will stand, and he or she must shoot the spare.
- C. **Dead Wood** – If a pin is in the channel, a competitor must consult the competitors on his or her 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.
 - 1. If the competitor attempts a spare conversion while a pin is in play and the ball contacts the dead wood before leaving the lane surface, he or she shall receive zero for the shot.
 - 2. If the competitor attempts a spare conversion while a pin is in play and any pin after coming in contact with the dead wood knocks down one or more pins, he or she shall receive zero for the shot.
- D. **Missing Pins** – A competitor must re-bowl the frame if it is determined that any pins were missing from the rack at which he or she shot.

Rule 24 – SCORE SHEET

- A. Verifying and signing the score sheet.



1. Qualifying. Competitors are responsible for verifying and signing both their own score sheets as well as that of their competitor. Verification of information includes game scores, total pins, plus/minus totals and bowling balls used in competition.
 2. Match play. Verify and initial the opponent's score sheet immediately following each match.
- B. Documenting equipment on the score sheet. Competitors must document each bowling ball used during the round on their score sheet by the end of the first game the ball is put into play. Documentation of each bowling ball should include the last four digits of the serial number.
- C. Damage to score sheets. Competitors may not intentionally damage their score sheets.
- D. Official scores. Once a competitor signs his or her score sheet, he or she agrees that, barring any necessary mathematical corrections, the score becomes official. USBC shall have one hour to make any mathematical corrections, but any other disputes that would result in the improvement of a competitor's score shall not be allowed.

Rule 25 - POWDER

No substance, including, but not limited to, talcum powder and EZ Slide, can be applied to the bottom of a player's shoes.

Rule 26 - EATING, DRINKING, SMOKING

- A. Entrants are NOT permitted to smoke or drink alcoholic beverages while competing in this event. This includes from the start of an individual's warm-up session to the last ball thrown for score in qualifying, match play and finals.
- B. Bowlers are permitted to eat a small snack (ex: Power Bars, candy bars, fruit) during competition.

Rule 27 - PERSONNEL IN THE COMPETITION AREA

The tournament director will define the competition area prior to the start of competition.

- A. Authorized Personnel
1. Only tournament competitors, USBC staff and tournament volunteers are permitted in the competition area during competition.
 2. Media personnel covering the event may be permitted into the competition area on a case-by-case basis.
- B. Credentialed bowling ball manufacturer representatives (ball reps)
1. Only reps officially designated by their company will be credentialed.
 - a. May remain in the competition area during the official practice sessions and warm-up sessions only and must leave the competition area when the warm-up session is complete.
 - b. Must be in business casual attire at all times when in the venue.
 2. Failure to follow the dress code may result in the revocation of credential.

Rule 28 - SPECTATORS AND COMPETITOR GUESTS

- A. Each competitor is allowed their spouse, school-age children under 18, parents and one additional guest during practice sessions, pro-am and all qualifying and match-play rounds.
- B. Guests for competitors for any televised portion of the event will be handled by the tournament director.
- C. Players who have been eliminated from the competition must accompany their guests to take advantage of the complimentary entry.



- D. Eliminated competitors do not have complimentary admittance to the TV/championship-round finals.

Rule 29 - CODE OF CONDUCT

The following list illustrates conduct that is inappropriate for an individual bowling in a professional event. Violations of this Code of Conduct will be enforced with the appropriate fines and penalties.

- A. Level 1 Infractions – Individuals will receive a warning prior to being issued a Code of Conduct violation.
 - 1. Double-jumping
 - 2. Slow bowling
 - 3. Bowling on wrong lane or out of turn
- B. Level 2 Infractions
 - 1. 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.
 - a. Exception – Tournament management may authorize official event media partner(s) to use electronic devices with tournament participant’s approval.
 - 2. Competitors on incoming squads may not enter the competition area until the previous squad has finished.
 - 3. Smoking and/or drinking during competition.
 - 4. Failure to participate in an assigned pro-am squad.
- C. Level 3 Infractions - Shall apply to all tournament bowlers and credentialed manufacturer representatives from the time of entry into the competition through the duration of the tournament and until the end of the next season’s event.
 - 1. One must conduct themselves in a professional manner while in the host center, on the property of the host center and on social media.
 - 2. One must not criticize or discuss the sponsor, host center or personnel, lane conditions or pins or fellow competitors in an unfavorable manner.
 - 3. One must not use electronic media platforms to defame or otherwise attack the integrity of sponsors, other participants, host center or host center employees.
 - 4. One must not engage in improper tactics or conduct including, but not limited to:
 - a. Physical and verbal abuse toward another person.
 - b. Destruction of property. Individual will be held responsible by USBC for replacement/repair of any damaged property.
- D. Bowling Equipment Infractions
 - 1. Ball is marked incorrectly on a player’s card and is used in competition.
 - 2. Altering a ball after ball card is submitted that affects the weight or balance of a ball.
 - 3. Requesting an inspection of a bowling ball that passes inspection.
- E. Serious violations which may warrant disqualification from the competition and/or disciplinary action through USBC will be discussed with USBC management.

Rule 30 - FINES AND PENALTIES

Fines are determined per tournament. All fines and penalties will be documented in writing and provided to the participant with instructions on payment and how to appeal.

Rule	Rule	Fine	Penalty
3	Pro-am	COC Fine	
6-B	Dress code	\$100	



6-C	Inappropriate attire	\$100	Must be corrected before participation
12-B1a	More than 10 balls in locker room	\$50 per ball	Balls removed from locker room
12-B3a	Ball not used in competition	\$25	Ball removed from competition. May be used next round.
	Ball used in competition and meets specifications	COC Fine	Ball removed from competition. May be used next round.
	Ball used in competition and does not meet specifications	COC Fine	Disqualification
12-E	Abrasives, cleaners or polishes are seen in the competition area	COC Fine	
	Abrasive, cleaner or polish is used, ball not thrown in competition	COC Fine	Ball removed from play
	Abrasive, cleaner or polish is used, ball is thrown in competition	COC Fine	Disqualification
14-A3	Alternate not available for competition	\$100	
15	Tardy/missing roll call	\$25	
24-A	Not verifying and/or signing score sheet	\$25	
24-B	Not documenting equipment on score sheet	\$25	
24-C	Damage to score sheet	\$25	
29	First offense	\$250	
	Second offense	\$500	
	Third offense and subsequent offenses	\$1,000	

Rule 31 - PAYMENT OF FINES

Tournament management will charge all fines to the credit card used by the competitor to enter the tournament unless the individual chooses to have the fine paid:

- A. By cash or credit card
- B. Through deduction from the competitor’s prize earnings

Rule 32 - PROTESTS

- A. Protests concerning scoring accuracy must be immediately filed with tournament management.
- B. Complaints concerning approach conditions or other equipment must be brought to the attention of the tournament director. An inspection will be made. 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.

Rule 33 - APPEALS

- A. Appeals of penalties or fines must be filed with the USBC Rules department within 10 days of receipt of notice.
- B. The appeal will be treated as an administrative grievance and handled in accordance with USBC Bylaws Disciplinary Procedures Supplement.
- C. An appeal that involves payment of a fine, if upheld, will result in the fine being returned.



Rule 34 - TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

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.