



United States Bowling Congress

# USBC BYLAWS

**2024-2025**

[BOWL.com/RULES](https://www.bowl.com/rules)

A **Future** FOR  
THE **Sport**



---

# USBC National Bylaws

## Article I Name, Incorporation and Offices

The name of the corporation is the United States Bowling Congress, Inc., referred to in these Bylaws as "USBC." USBC is organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin and maintains offices in Texas or elsewhere as determined by the Board of Directors.

## Article II Purposes

### Section A. Advancing the Sport of Bowling

USBC's purposes include:

1. Fostering local, state, National, and International amateur competition in the sport of bowling;
2. Providing governance and development for, and developing interest and participation in, the sport of bowling throughout the United States and internationally as determined by the Board of Directors;
3. Being responsible to the members;
4. Keeping those engaged in the sport of bowling informed of policy matters;
5. Certifying and regulating league and tournament competition for bowling.

### Section B. Chartering State and Local Bowling Associations

USBC issues charters to state and local bowling associations that meet requirements established in these Bylaws and by the Board of Directors. Chartered local associations must provide service for men, women and youth and all are subject to the authority of USBC. USBC approves the geographic areas in which chartered associations may operate. The Board may revoke the charter of a state or local bowling association at any time if it determines that the association is not acting in compliance with USBC bylaws or rules, or state or local association bylaws; or is not in compliance with such requirements as USBC may establish, in its sole discretion, from time to time. Requirements for chartered state and local bowling associations include but are not limited to:

1. Compliance with Federal and state law.
2. Acceptance of, and adherence to, the Bylaws, the terms of the charter, and the authority of the USBC Board.
3. Adoption and maintenance of bylaws in the form determined by USBC and avoidance of any rules or policies conflicting with those bylaws or the USBC Bylaws.
4. Compliance with requirements in the USBC National Supplement and the *USBC Association Policy Manual*, including such requirements as are added or revised from time to time.
5. Acting in the best interest of USBC and the sport of bowling.

In extraordinary circumstances, the USBC Board may waive or suspend any requirements otherwise applicable to a state or local bowling association or establish separate affiliate status for organizations serving amateur bowlers to operate under the parameters established by the Board.



---

### **Section C. Conducting Tournaments**

USBC conducts tournament competition in the sport of bowling for men, women, youth and collegiate members.

### **Section D. Compliance**

USBC:

1. Is established and conducted in compliance with applicable Federal, state, and local laws and regulations in all of its purposes, activities, policies, and programs;
2. Is not organized for profit and no part of its net earnings inure to individuals; it is organized and operated consistent with the requirements for Federal income tax exemption as an organization that fosters National or International amateur sports competition according to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations of the Internal Revenue Service;
3. Is eligible to be recognized by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee ("USOPC") as the National Governing Body for the sport of bowling; provided USBC:
  - a. Is a member of only one International sports federation, i.e., the World Championships, which is recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the worldwide governing body of bowling;
  - b. Agrees to submit to binding arbitration in any controversy involving:
    - 1) Its recognition as a National Governing Body, or
    - 2) The opportunity of any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official to participate in amateur athletic competition upon demand of the USOPC or any aggrieved amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official, conducted in accordance with the Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association as modified by the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act;
  - c. Is autonomous in the governance of the sport of bowling in that it independently determines, and controls all matters central to that governance, does not delegate any of that determination or control, and is free from outside restraint;
  - d. Makes membership open to any individual who is a bowler or an amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official active in the sport of bowling;
  - e. Provides an equal opportunity to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in amateur bowling competition without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, or National origin, and with fair notice and opportunity for hearing to any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official before declaring the individual ineligible to participate;
  - f. Is governed by a Board of Directors whose members are selected without regard to race, color, religion, National origin, or sex, sexual orientation, with reasonable representation on the Board of both males and females;
  - g. Has a Board of Directors and other governance bodies that have established criteria and election procedures for, and maintain among their voting members, individuals who are actively engaged in amateur athletic competition in bowling or who have represented the United States in International amateur athletic competition within the preceding 10 years, and that the voting power held by those individuals is not less than twenty percent of the voting power held in its Board of Directors or other governance body;



- 
- h. Provides for reasonable direct representation on its Board of Directors for any amateur sports organization which, in the sport of bowling, conducts on a level of proficiency appropriate for selection of amateur athletes to represent the United States in International amateur athletic competition, a National program, or regular National amateur athletic competition, and ensures that representation reflects the nature, scope, quality, and strength of the programs and competitions of that amateur sports organization in relation to all other of those programs and competitions in the sport of bowling in the United States;
  - i. Has no officers who are also officers of another amateur sports organization which is recognized by the USOPC as a National Governing Body;
  - j. Provides procedures for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances of its members;
  - k. Does not have eligibility criteria relating to amateur status or to participation in the Olympic or Pan American Games which are more restrictive than those of the appropriate International sports federation;
  - l. Is prepared to meet the obligations imposed by the USOPC on a National Governing Body, including those relating to complaints against a National Governing Body and those relating to mediation of complaints;
  - m. Minimizes, through coordination with other amateur bowling organizations, conflicts in the scheduling of all practices and competitions;
  - n. Disseminates and distributes to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials in a timely manner the applicable rules and any changes to those rules of USBC, the USOPC, and the FIQ;
  - o. Promptly reviews every request submitted by an amateur bowling organization or individual for certification:
    - 1) To hold an International amateur bowling competition in the United States, or
    - 2) To sponsor United States amateur bowlers to compete in International competition held outside the United States, and determine whether to grant the certification according to the requirements of the USOPC, all provided in written policies approved by the Board;
  - p. Allows a bowler to compete in any International amateur bowling competition conducted under USBC auspices or that of any other amateur bowling organization or individual, unless USBC establishes that its denial was based on evidence that the organization or individual conducting the competition did not meet the criteria for USBC certification of bowling competition consistent with the requirements of the USOPC, all provided in written policies approved by the Board;
  - q. Provides equitable support and encouragement for participation by women where separate programs for male and female bowlers are conducted on a National basis;
  - r. Encourages and supports amateur bowling programs for persons with disabilities and for their participation in amateur bowling activity, including, where feasible, the expansion of opportunities for meaningful participation by persons with disabilities in programs of bowling competition for persons without disabilities;
  - s. Provides and coordinates technical information on bowling equipment design, coaching, performance analysis, sports medicine, and physical training;
  - t. Encourages and supports dissemination of information in the area of sports safety.
  - u. Requires its employees, members of the board of directors including officers, Team USA Athletes and coaches and independent contractors abide by a code of conduct. Such code will include, but is not limited to, policies on gift & entertainment, conflict of interest and background screens.



---

## **Article III Membership and Dues**

### **Section A. Membership**

Membership in USBC:

1. Is available to individuals who pay dues in any membership category established by USBC and qualify under the rules of the USBC;
2. May be suspended or revoked without a vote or due process if a member has failed to pay applicable dues;
3. May be suspended or revoked by the Board (or any Committee delegated such authority by the Board) by a majority vote following due process if a member is found to have violated any USBC, state, or local association bylaws, policies, procedures, playing rules or other requirements. Due process does not require an in-person hearing.

Upon obtaining membership in USBC each member agrees to be bound by all final decisions of USBC concerning application or interpretation of USBC Bylaws, playing rules, and all other matters relating to the sport of bowling as governed by USBC.

Membership in the USBC is not transferable.

### **Section B. Dues**

USBC adult members are required to pay dues to USBC, to local associations, as well as to state associations that assess dues in combined amounts established by USBC.

USBC Youth Standard Membership dues are \$4, state/local association dues are not allowed.

Annual adult standard membership dues are:

USBC dues not to exceed \$15.

State dues not to exceed \$5.

Local dues determined by their membership.

## **Article IV Board of Directors**

### **Section A. Eligibility**

Individuals elected to the Board of Directors must be at least 18 years old. Prior to submitting the required documentation seeking an elected position or appointment and throughout their term, an individual must be:

1. A member of USBC
2. Approved through the Registered Volunteer Program.

Directors must remain USBC members and maintain any other qualifications required for Board election throughout their term of office.

In addition to the above, Athlete Directors must also meet the applicable eligibility requirements, conflict of interest policies, and codes of conduct of bodies they belong to related to their board service (i.e., the Team USA AC and/or USOPA).





The Board consists of no more than the following:

1. Delegate Directors. Nine (9) Directors in total who are elected at a USBC Annual Meeting(s) by the "Delegates," as defined in these Bylaws; these Delegate Directors must meet eligibility criteria established by the Board;
2. Proprietor Directors. Two (2) Directors who are Proprietors, as defined in Article XII of these Bylaws, and who are elected by Bowling Proprietors' Association of America ("BPAA"), and approved by the board are subject to the following provisions:
  - a. The maximum number of Directors who meet the definition of Proprietor who may be permitted to serve as a Director of USBC at any time shall be limited to two Directors.
  - b. No more than one additional Delegate Director may serve on the Board who meets the definition of "Proprietor" and is among the 9 Delegate Directors elected by the Delegates;
  - c. Any number of Directors who meet the definition of "Proprietor" may serve on the Board if each is a Team USA Athlete, as defined in these Bylaws (See Article IX, Section B, Item 1), and is elected to the Board by Team USA Athletes, as defined in the *National Policy Manual* or those board members representing the Youth Advisory Group;
3. Youth Directors. Two (2) Directors representing the Youth Advisory Group who are appointed by the President and approved by the Board;
4. Team USA Directors. Seven (7) Directors who are Team USA Athletes, as defined in these Bylaws (last page), and who are elected through a process adopted by the USBC Athlete's Advisory Committee, or a greater number, if necessary, to assure that at least 33.33% of the Board consists of Team USA Athletes;
5. Amateur Sports Organization Director. One (1) Director who:
  - a. Represents an organization that conducts a national program or regular national amateur athletic competition in bowling on a level of proficiency appropriate for the selection of amateur athletes to represent the United States in international amateur athletic competition; and
  - b. Reflects the nature, scope, quality, and strength of the programs and competitions in relation to all other programs and competitions in bowling in the United States.
6. At-Large Director. One (1) Director-at-Large, appointed by the President and approved by the Board;
7. Independent Director. The USBC Board of Directors must consist of at least one board member who can provide an independent perspective as defined by the USOPC. If no Delegate Director or At-Large Director can provide an independent perspective, the USBC President, with board approval, will appoint an Independent Director for a one year term.

## **Section B. Election**

At the Annual Meeting, Directors are elected to fill open positions on the Board that are subject to election by the Delegates; election is by majority vote of the Delegates present from either:

1. A slate provided by the Nominating Committee; or
2. Nominations from the floor provided that the names of nominees and their qualifications are submitted to the Nominating Committee, in writing, at least 30 days prior to the opening of the Annual Meeting.

Team USA Athletes are elected to the Board by Team USA Athletes. The election is conducted according to policies and procedures established by the Athletes Advisory Council.



Two (2) Youth Directors are appointed by the President and approved by the Board.

Two (2) Proprietor Directors are elected to the board by the BPAA subject to approval by the Board.

### **Section C. Terms**

Multiple elected or appointed terms may be served either consecutively or intermittently, but all Directors are subject to a lifetime maximum of three terms on the Board and all appointed Directors a maximum of nine years of service, except a president elected for a two-year term in his/her ninth year can serve on the board for 10 years. The terms of Directors are determined according to the following provisions:

1. Each Director elected by the Delegates, by Team USA Athletes or by BPAA and each director appointed as a Youth Director serves a three-year term and may be re-elected for two additional terms;
2. Director-at-Large and Director representing other amateur bowling organizations, serve one-year terms;
3. Multiple-year terms are staggered according to procedures established by the Board;
4. When a Director resigns from the Board or fills a vacancy and has served more than half of a term that Director is considered to have served a full term. Terms begin on August 1 and end on July 31.

### **Section D. Resignation, Removal, and Vacancies**

1. **Resignation.** A member of the Board of Directors may resign from the Board by providing written notice of resignation to the President or, in the case of the President, to the Board. The same process is followed if an Officer resigns his/her Officer position only, but not his/her Director position.
2. **Removal.** An Officer or Director may be removed with or without cause by a two-thirds vote of the balance of the Board of Directors.  
The Board can remove:
  - a. An Officer from an office position only;
  - b. An Officer from an office position and from the Board;
  - c. A Director from the Board.
3. **Vacancies.** Vacancies in positions on the Board are filled for the unexpired portion of each term as follows:
  - a. If elected by the Delegates, or in Director-at-Large positions, vacancies are filled by the President, subject to approval by the Board;
  - b. If elected by Team USA Athletes, vacancies are filled by the Athletes Advisory Council by majority vote. The individual filling the vacancy must be a Team USA Athlete;
  - c. A vacancy is declared for a Youth Advisory Group position if he/she no longer serves on the Youth Advisory Group. Vacancies are filled by the President and approved by the Board. The individual filling the vacancy must be a current Youth Advisory Group member;
  - d. If elected or appointed to represent other amateur bowling organizations, vacancies are filled by the respective organizations subject to Board approval;
  - e. If elected by BPAA, vacancies are filled by BPAA subject to Board approval;
  - f. The Board fills vacancies in Officer positions.

### **Section E. Authority and Duties**

Management and governance of USBC is vested in the Board of Directors. The Board is a strategic governing body; and its powers and duties include, but are not limited to:

1. Developing strategic business and membership marketing plans;



2. Determining programs and services;
3. Allocating resources;
4. Reviewing and approving:
  - a. Annual budget;
  - b. Audited financial statements;
  - c. Annual reports;
  - d. Financial and control policies;
5. Selecting independent auditors;
6. Establishing standards and monitoring the performance of USBC;
7. Employing and evaluating, compensation and termination of the Executive Director;
8. Determining USBC policy positions;
9. Providing oversight of the administration of USBC;
10. Approving policies and procedures for:
  - a. Managing contracts and obligations;
  - b. Reviewing revenues and expenditures;
  - c. Maintaining records and minutes of meetings;
11. Exercising final jurisdiction over general playing rules, violations and interpretations of USBC Bylaws, playing rules, policies and regulations, disputes with or among chartered state and local associations, and issues arising from league and tournament play, including protests and appeals, and all other matters or issues concerning the sport of bowling as governed by USBC;
12. Interpreting any provision adopted by it and/or the delegates and its interpretation shall be final;
13. Amending, interpreting, and enforcing, either directly or by delegation, all policies and procedures, rules and requirements, criteria and standards for: certification, equipment specifications, awards, suspension and reinstatement, National tournaments, and all other USBC management and governance matters other than those specifically reserved to the Delegates;
14. Amending, interpreting, and enforcing all policies and procedures, bylaws, rules and requirements, criteria and standards for Athlete and youth issues;
15. Reserving the authority over the applicability and enforceability of the USOPC requirements within the organization;
16. Ensuring that athlete safety rules, policies, and procedures comply with the requirements of the USOPC and U.S. Center for SafeSport;
17. Amending or suspending these Bylaws, and the league rules, and tournament rules in the event the Board considers it expedient and in the best interests of USBC or to avoid disadvantage to USBC and/or changes in Federal and/or state law, rules and regulations that affect the applicability or the enforceability of any part of these Bylaws, league rules, and tournament rules. Any changes made under this provision must be ratified by the Delegates and is otherwise subject to Delegate action consistent with applicable law;
18. Temporarily amending or suspending these Bylaws, State, Local and Affiliate Bylaws and the league rules and tournament rules in cases of government declared emergencies or disasters, pandemic, attack on the United States, or any nuclear or atomic disaster;
19. Renumbering, revising, codifying and correcting any provision in the bylaws, and any and all rules and regulations of USBC to eliminate errors in spelling, grammar and numbering, and to change the order and sequence and to adopt provisions consistent with these Bylaws;
20. Establishing annual National dues up to the maximum set by the Delegates as well as establishing terms and conditions for collection of dues;
21. Establishing other membership categories and dues;





22. Managing International relations;
23. Exercising care and supervision over state and local associations;
24. Communicating applicable rules and any changes to members;
25. Approving certified bowling facilities for training and competition;
26. Developing athlete teams for National and International competition;
27. Reviewing requests for certification to hold amateur bowling competitions, and determining whether to grant certifications, according to the requirements of the USOPC (if applicable) and as provided in written policies approved by the Board.

#### **Section F. USBC Employees**

No employee of USBC will serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors, or of USBC committees, task forces, or other governance bodies.

### **Article V Officers**

#### **Section A. President, Vice President, Executive Director, and Other Officers**

The officers of USBC include a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Director shall serve as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Corporation. The Board of Directors may establish positions for other officers from time to time.

#### **Section B. Election or Employment**

Officers, other than the Executive Director, are elected by the Board from among current Directors.

#### **Section C. Term**

Except for the Executive Director, an officer may serve two, two-year terms to each position.

#### **Section D. Authority and Duties**

1. **The President:**
  - a. Presides at the Annual Meeting of USBC and at Board meetings;
  - b. May appoint Directors-at-Large, subject to Board approval;
  - c. Appoints the chair of all committees with Board approval, except Athlete members of committees and the Athletes Advisory Council;
  - d. Appoints the members of all committees with Board approval, except the Nominating Committee and the Athletes Advisory Council;
  - e. Serves as the principal spokesperson for USBC and oversees its International relations.
2. **The Vice President:**
  - a. Presides at the Annual Meeting of USBC and at Board meetings when the President is absent;
  - b. Performs other duties as prescribed by the Board or requested by the President.
3. **The Executive Director:**
  - a. Serves as Secretary and Treasurer of the corporation;
  - b. Performs whatever duties and responsibilities are prescribed by the Board or the President;
  - c. Serves as an ex officio non-voting member of the Board.



---

## Article VI Meetings

### Section A. Annual Meeting

An Annual Meeting of USBC is held at a time and place approved by the Board of Directors.

Attendance is open to all members.

1. **Delegates.** "Delegates" are defined as individuals, who hold USBC membership, 18 years of age or older at the time of election, who are elected from associations according to these Bylaws. Delegate's term of office is from August 1 through July 31 of each year.
2. **Voting and Speaking.** Voting at the USBC Annual Meeting is by Delegates, Athletes, USBC Hall of Fame members, and USBC Officers and Directors. All votes of the Voting Members at the Annual Meeting shall be cast by electronic ballot which shall be the sole method for determining votes at the Annual Meeting unless the President in his or her sole discretion determines the circumstances reasonably require a different method of voting. All members (including the Voting Members) in good standing as of the date of the Annual Meeting may be permitted to address the members at the Annual Meeting. Other USBC members may address the USBC Annual Meeting but may not vote. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.
3. **Delegate Representation.**
  - a. State association in good standing representing men, women and youth, may elect two Delegates and two Alternate Delegates to the USBC Annual Meeting.
  - b. The number of Delegates to which a local association is entitled will be based on USBC's records of the association's fiscal year membership as of July 31, the year prior to the USBC's Annual Meeting. Each local association in good standing with USBC, with the exception of affiliate associations, are entitled to Delegates to the USBC Annual Meeting. Associations with youth would base their membership on USBC Youth members bowling in USBC Leagues within the association's jurisdiction, as follows:
    - 1) Less than 500 members - two Delegates and one Alternate Delegate;
    - 2) 500 members or more - two Delegates and one Alternate Delegate for the first 500 members and one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate for each additional 500 members or major fraction thereof with a maximum of 30 Delegates;
  - c. Newly-chartered local bowling associations, with no membership numbers recorded by July 31st, the year prior to the USBC's Annual Meeting, may elect one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to the USBC Annual Meeting;
  - d. A state or local association whose charter has been suspended or revoked, or an association that is delinquent in processing dues for the current bowling season, is not considered "in good standing" for purposes of Delegates or Alternate Delegates attending the USBC Annual Meeting;
  - e. Athletes, as defined in these Bylaws, are eligible to serve as Delegates.
  - f. USBC Hall of Fame members;
  - g. USBC Board of Directors;
  - h. For all purposes, voting power is the sum of items a. through g.
4. **Delegate Responsibilities.** Delegates vote to:
  - a. Amend and approve the National, state and local mandatory bylaws, with the exception of provisions for compliance with USOPC rules and regulations,



- provisions related to Athletes and Youth, and other provisions mandated by the Articles of Incorporation or applicable law;
- b. Establish standard maximum adult dues for National and state;
  - c. Elect Directors to fill open positions on the Board that are subject to election by the Delegates;
  - d. Approve adult league rules, and adult tournament rules for the sport of bowling.
5. **Meeting Notice.** Written notice of the USBC Annual Meeting is provided to Delegates and chartered state and local bowling associations in good standing at least 30 days in advance of the USBC Annual Meeting.
6. **Quorum.** The presence of 100 Delegates establishes a quorum for the transaction of business at the USBC Annual Meeting.
7. **Action.** Elections by the Delegates are conducted according to policies and procedures established by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board. The action of a majority of Delegates present and voting, when a quorum has been established, carries a motion unless otherwise provided in the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws. Absentee and proxy voting and other types of voting agreements are not permitted.

## **Section B. Meetings of the Board of Directors**

The Board meets at least three times a year. Special meetings may be held upon the request of any Director subject to the approval of a majority of the Board.

1. **Action without a Meeting.** Action required or permitted to be taken at a Board meeting may be taken without a meeting, by written action signed by two-thirds of the Directors then in office.
2. **Meetings via Telecommunications.** Any or all Directors may participate in a regular or special meeting or a Committee meeting by the use of any means of communication through which any of the following occurs:
  - a. All participating Directors may simultaneously hear or read each other's communications during the meeting; or
  - b. All communication during the meeting is immediately transmitted to each participating Director, and each participating Director is able to immediately send messages to all other participating Directors.
3. **Notice.** Special meetings of the Board may be held on two days or greater notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting.
4. **Quorum.** A quorum for conducting business is a majority of the Board.
5. **Action.** The vote of a majority of the Board of Directors present and voting, when a quorum has been established, is required to take action unless otherwise provided by law or by these Bylaws.

## **Section C. Parliamentary Procedure**

The most recent version of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, governs all USBC meetings.

## **Article VII Committees**

### **Section A. Standing Committees**

All Committees established by the USBC Board of Directors shall be comprised of a minimum of three (3) Directors. The Standing Committees of USBC are the following:

1. **Nominating Committee.**
  - a. The Nominating Committee may establish additional eligibility criteria subject to approval by the Board of Directors, for Delegate Directors whose positions are



subject to election by the Delegates at the USBC Annual Meeting. The Committee develops a slate of candidates for all positions. The Committee establishes election policies and procedures subject to approval by the Board.

- b. Committee members are elected by the Board; the Chair is appointed by the President and is approved by the USBC Board. Directors who are eligible for re-election or re-appointment to the Board do not serve on the Nominating Committee.
2. **Finance Committee.** The Finance Committee is responsible for proposing and monitoring the annual budget of USBC and providing oversight regarding other financial matters as determined by the Board.
3. **Athletes Advisory Council.** The Athletes Advisory Council is elected by members of USBC who are Team USA 10 Year Athletes as defined in these Bylaws. The Council establishes policies and procedures, subject to approval by the Board, for election or appointment of Athletes to serve as members of USBC committees (other than Standing Committees) and task forces and for election or appointment of Team USA Athletes to serve as:
  - a. USBC Directors and;
  - b. The USBC Representative and Alternate to the USOPC Athletes Advisory Council.

The Council itself selects Athletes to serve as:

- a. Members of other committees and task forces and;
- b. The Chair and any other officers of the Council.

The Council serves as a source of opinion and advice to the Board with regard to both current and contemplated policies of USBC. Only Team USA Athletes are eligible to serve on the Athletes Advisory Council. The USBC Representative and Alternate to the USOPC Athletes Advisory Council are voting members of the USBC Athletes Advisory Council.

4. **Equipment Specifications and Certification Committee.** The Equipment Specifications and Certification Committee is responsible for reviewing and making final decisions regarding new items of equipment on which USBC approval is requested.

The committee also has these responsibilities:

- a. Setting policies or procedures regarding the operation and management related to equipment specifications and certification;
- b. Granting, withholding, suspending, withdrawing or otherwise regulating bowling center certificates.

## **Section B. Other Committees**

The President establishes other USBC committees with approval of the Board of Directors. All members of such committees must be approved through the Registered Volunteer Program and maintain such status throughout their term.

## **Article VIII Amendments**

Any member or chartered state or local association may submit a proposed amendment to the adult league rules, adult tournament rules or these Bylaws, except with respect to provisions for compliance with USOPC rules and regulations and provisions related to



Athletes and Youth and other provisions mandated by the Articles of Incorporation or applicable law. Amendments must be submitted in writing and received by USBC

Headquarters on or before September 1 prior to the date of the next USBC Annual Meeting. Approval of an amendment to these Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote of the Delegates, present and voting at the USBC Annual Meeting where a quorum is present. Approval of an amendment to the adult league rules, or adult tournaments rules requires a majority vote of the Delegates, present and voting at the USBC Annual Meeting where a quorum is present.

If an amendment does not receive 25% of votes for approval at an Annual Meeting, that same amendment, and any amendment where the intent closely resembles the defeated amendment, may not be re-submitted for consideration at the next Annual Meeting.

Amendments by the Delegates become effective as of August 1 following the USBC Annual Meeting where they were adopted, unless otherwise specified.

The Board of Directors may amend these Bylaws with respect to provisions for compliance with USOPC rules and regulations and provisions related to Athletes and Youth. Voting to amend these Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote at any duly called meeting of the Board. Amendments by the Board become effective as of the date specified by the Board.

## **Article IX Due Process**

USBC affords all its members due process in grievances with other USBC members and in grievances with USBC. USBC's due process procedures can be found in the *USBC Bylaws Disciplinary Procedures Supplement*.

## **Article X USBC SafeSport Policy**

The investigation and adjudication of matters involving allegations or reports of sexual abuse or misconduct, or other violations of USBC's SafeSport Code that involve prohibited conduct by covered individuals as stated in Article V of the *USBC Bylaws Disciplinary Procedures Supplement* are subject to the jurisdiction of the U. S. Center for SafeSport.

## **Article XI Indemnification**

The USBC shall to the maximum extent permitted under the Wisconsin Nonstock Corporation law, as amended from time to time, indemnify and allow reasonable expenses of any person who was or is a party or threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director, member of any committee of the USBC, officer, employee or agent of or volunteered services to the USBC; or is or was serving at the request of the USBC as a director, officer, employee or agent of any committee, or of any other corporation or enterprise unless liability was incurred because the director or officer breached or failed to perform a duty that he or she owes to the USBC and the breach or failure to perform constitutes any of the following:

1. A willful failure to deal fairly with the USBC or its members in connection with a matter in which the director or officer has a material conflict of interest;



2. A violation of the criminal law, unless the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was lawful or no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful;
3. A transaction from which the director or officer derived an improper personal profit or benefit; or
4. Willful misconduct.

Such right of indemnification shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, administrators and personal representatives of such a person. Nothing in this Section shall require or establish any obligation to indemnify:

1. Any employee or staff of the USBC, as to or related to any claim, action or matter including but not limited to claims or actions arising from or related to employment, contract or termination in which such individual or individuals are adverse parties to or otherwise adverse to the Board, or
2. Any firm or organization which supplies staff or staff assistance to the USBC.

## **Article XII Definitions**

As used in these Bylaws, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

“Delegates” shall mean individuals, who hold USBC membership, are 18 years of age or older at the time of election, and who are elected pursuant to Section C.1 of Article IV.

“Athlete” shall mean an individual who is:

1. at least 18 years of age, and
2. a Team USA 10 Year Athlete
3. a 10 Year+ Athlete
4. actively Engaged Athlete.

Team USA Athletes are:

1. “Team USA 10 Year Athlete” shall mean an individual who within the preceding ten (10) years, the individual earned a place on Team USA through their performance at a USBC Team Trials or has represented the United States in the Olympic or Pan American Games, or an Operation Gold event, or a World Championship recognized by IBF; or a PANAM Championships.
2. “A Team USA 10 Year+ Athlete” representative is an athlete who has at any point but not within the 10 years, prior to election/selection, met the definition of 10-year athlete representative.

“Actively Engaged Athlete” shall mean an individual who:

One year prior to appointment, those individuals who have demonstrated active engagement in amateur bowling competition by finishing in tournaments as follows:

1. For open or women's National championship tournaments conducted by USBC, the top five percent of all amateur finishers based upon the combined list of participants in the All Events event from each of the divisions in the order in which the participants scored;
2. For the Team USA Team Trials and National Junior Gold championship tournaments conducted by USBC, the top 50% of all amateur male finishers and of all amateur female finishers.





---

“Proprietor” shall mean an individual who is the shareholder, member, partner, or officer of a bowling center or group of bowling centers; provided, however, such individual shall not be a Proprietor if he or she:

1. Owns, directly or indirectly, twenty-five percent (25%) or less of the outstanding equity of a bowling center or centers,
2. Is inactive in the management of the bowling center or bowling centers, or
3. Is employed by, or otherwise receives compensation from BPAA.