

## 1. AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 78th BOWLERS JOURNAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The average to be used will be determined in the following order:

A. Open Championships tournament average, based on most recent 27 games bowled at the tournament since 2016 (Championships Average).

B. Bowlers without a qualifying Championships Average will enter with the highest average from the following:

- 1) Highest USBC-certified league average (winter, summer or composite), based on 21 or more games from:
  - a) 2023/2024 season or
  - b) 2022/2023 season or
  - c) 2021/2022 season

Averages **NOT** established on a Sport condition will be converted **downward** using the appropriate Sport or Challenge conversion chart.

C. Bowlers who do not meet any of the average requirements in item A or B will enter with the highest of the following:

- 1) Current certified average at the time of bowling of 21 or more games, converted downward using the appropriate Sport or Challenge conversion chart (if not already Sport).
- 2) Current composite average of 21 or more games in all current USBC leagues, converted downward using the appropriate Sport or Challenge conversion chart (if not already Sport).

League standings sheets or a letter of verification from the association secretary must be presented upon check-in.

D. Bowlers who do not meet any of the average requirements stated in items A, B or C will be entered with a 220 Sport average.

## BOWLERS JOURNAL AVERAGE VERIFICATION SHEET – (LAVENDER)

Each entrant in any handicap division must answer all questions and disclose any required information on the lavender Bowlers Journal average verification form.

A. At the time of bowling, is your current average for 21 or more games, converted to Sport, 10 or more pins higher than the average determined in item A and B?

B. Previous Average Adjustments (Re-rates) — Any re-rate or adjustments to averages, and the average adjusted to, from any tournament or event, regardless if the adjustment was accepted or not.

C. Prior Prize Winnings (USBC Rule 319d) — Within the last 12-month period immediately preceding the time and date of bowling in the 2025 Bowlers Journal Championships, have you won money and/or merchandise prize in excess of \$300 in a single event, combined prize money in excess of \$500 in a tournament and/or combined prize money in excess of \$1,000 in all tournaments competed in within 12 months?

- 1) The name of each tournament in which they have been paid such a prize, or if not yet paid, in which they have qualified for the prize.
- 2) The amount of the prize.
- 3) The actual score bowled to qualify for the prize.
- 4) The prize position.

D. Tournament Average Adjustment (USBC Rule 319e) — If, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the time and date of bowling at the 2025 Bowlers Journal Championships, the bowler's accumulated average for all, but not less than 21 tournament games, exceeds the average to be used for entry by 15 or more pins converted to Sport, the accumulated average must be reported.

E. Professionals — Professional bowler status — Have you ever been a member of any professional organization or won a PBA, PWBA or other national/major title?

F. Have you held a collegiate bowling membership or been a member of any college bowling program/team/club during the calendar year (Jan.1 – Dec.



# RULES AND INFORMATION

The 78<sup>th</sup> Bowlers Journal Championships is USBC-certified, and all USBC rules apply, unless otherwise stated. The game of American tenpins will be played.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
BOWL.com/OpenChamp  
78th BOWLERS JOURNAL CHAMPIONSHIPS  
All Star Lanes  
9829 Airline Hwy  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

*To the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Bowling Congress: I/We, hereby make application to participate in the 78th Bowlers Journal Championships events listed and tender the entry fees required therefore. We warrant that we are USBC members. We agree to abide by all tournament and playing rules and regulations prescribed by USBC, including all provisions set forth on this form. We specifically agree for entrants whose names appear hereon or their authorized replacements hereby agree that the USBC, its officers and agents shall be liable only to the extent of returning entry fees, less expenses, if and when these entrants 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 or resulting there from fires, strikes, labor difficulties, terrorism or threats of terrorism, or other causes beyond the control of USBC. We further agree that USBC may use our names and likenesses (including video) for promotional purposes at no cost to us and with no fees being paid by us. The entrants whose names appear on this application and/or their authorized replacements hereby agree that the USBC, and its officers and agents, shall not be liable for any injury resulting from participation in bowling in the 78th Bowlers Journal Championships, absent willful or gross negligence on the part of USBC.*

C. For the purpose of participation in the Bowlers Journal Championships, COLLEGIATE BOWLERS are defined as: any bowler currently holding a collegiate bowling membership or one who has been a member of any college bowling program/team/club during the calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2024) and/or up through the date of competition in 2025.

D. Professional bowlers, members of a national bowling team and collegiate bowlers will be eligible to compete subject to the following guidelines:

- 1) DOUBLES – There may not be more than ONE bowler identified in paragraph 19-A, B and C as a professional or titlist, member of a national team or collegiate bowler per doubles team.
- 2) HANDICAP DOUBLES OR HANDICAP SINGLES – Each such player identified in paragraph 19-A, B and C as a professional or titlist, member of a national team or collegiate bowler, shall NOT be eligible to enter any handicap division or event at the Bowlers Journal Championships.

## 20. PROTESTS

Any protest or appeal concerning scoring must be made in writing briefly stating the grounds of the protest or appeal and submitted to the USBC tournament office no later than 24 hours after the game has been played. Any other protest must be filed in accordance with USBC Rule 329.

## 21. MULTIPLE DOUBLES

A bowler is allowed to bowl doubles with up to four (4) partners at the same time by paying the appropriate fees. Each partner counts as an entry toward the maximum of eight (8) allowed in each division in which they qualify.

## 22. RE-RACKS

Each bowler is allowed a total of one re-rack per game. Tournament management may grant additional re-racks.

## 23. SMOKING

No smoking or use of tobacco products of any kind are allowed during competition, including the use of "smokeless" cigarettes or any products intended to simulate the tobacco/smoking experience.

## 24. SPECIAL REQUESTS

Bowlers requiring aids, such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs, etc., or who are blind, must report this if special scheduling consideration needs to be arranged.

## 25. SQUAD TIMES

**Please note:** The 9:30 p.m. squad will not be held on Fridays or Saturdays. Check availability online or call the Bowlers Journal to confirm.

Times listed are "bowling for score" times.

Squad Times: 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Reservations made online take priority over walk-up entries. Walk-up entries will close 30 minutes prior to the start of every squad.

Bowlers must check in 30 minutes prior to scheduled squad time or reservation may be forfeited and transferred to someone on the wait list.

Hours are subject to change.

## 26. OTHER RULES

Bowlers agree to following any and all directives issued by federal, state and local authorities, as well as any USBC or All Star Lanes protocols, to ensure public safety during public gatherings/events.

Teams and/or individuals arriving late shall begin play, and the scores shall count beginning with the frame being bowled. Entrant will receive a zero for all frames missed or not completed.

Tournament management has the authority to make decisions regarding anything not covered by these rules.

31, 2024), or were you a member of any college bowling program/team/club up through your date of competition in 2025?

G. Are you a past or present member of Team USA, Junior Team USA or any other national bowling team, under the age of 60?

#### **FAILURE TO REPORT REQUIRED INFORMATION**

Failure to answer any question on the Lavender Sheet shall be cause for disqualification. Bowlers must attest to the accuracy of the information provided, and an understanding of the consequences of their failure to provide the proper facts.

#### **AVERAGE INTEGRITY**

Any bowler found using an average below the player’s ability will be disqualified from the competition and subject to suspension charges initiated under USBC Rule 17a, Grounds for Disciplinary Action – Unfair Tactics.

## **2. AVERAGE VERIFICATION – CORRECTION**

Bowlers are responsible for verifying the accuracy of their averages, whether originally submitted by the bowler, team captain or others. If submitted average is lower than required and results in a lower classification, the bowler’s score is disqualified. If the submitted average is higher than required, prize winnings will be based on the submitted average. In the case of a team of two bowlers, the averages will be combined to determine if the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total.

Average corrections can be made up to the end of the bowler’s first game of a series. If an extension of time has been granted in writing by tournament management before the end of the first game of a series, the bowler will be placed in the Open Division pending verification of average, which must be submitted by the bowler within 10 days of the end of the event.

## **3. AVERAGES - ADJUSTMENTS**

Tournament management has the authority to adjust a bowler’s average upward before participation in any event. For purposes of average adjustment, tournament management will use guidelines including, but not limited to, USBC Open Championships performance, previous tournament winnings and any records of bowler performance from leagues and/or tournaments.

A bowler has the right to appeal adjustments to the USBC Rules department within 15 days of notification.

If the assigned average is not accepted by the bowler, the entry fee shall be refunded.

#### **AVERAGE RELIEF**

Bowlers wanting to apply for relief of average due to injury or disability under provisions of USBC Rule 4e should apply a minimum of 30 days prior to date of bowling.

Applications for relief of average (USBC Rule 4e) must be submitted in writing to USBC Headquarters, Attn: Rules. Please see USBC Playing Rules for information regarding rule.

## **4. DRESS CODE**

All clothing must be neat, clean and in good condition. Tournament staff will make judgment calls relative to any unacceptable dress code concerns.

## **5. DIVISION STRUCTURE**

Divisions are open to any USBC member who meets the criteria for the division and the requirements specified in Eligibility – Rule 6.

OPEN SINGLES – Open to any USBC member. This event is a scratch event. Actual score will be used.

SENIOR SINGLES – Open to USBC members who will be 50 years of age or older as of date of participation. This event is a scratch event. Actual score will be used.

SUPER SENIOR SINGLES – Open to USBC members who will be 60 years of age or older as of date of participation. This event is a scratch event. Actual

score will be used.

OPEN DOUBLES \* – Open to all USBC members. This event is a scratch event. Actual scores will be used. No more than ONE bowler identified as a professional or titlist, member of a national team or collegiate bowler will be allowed per doubles team (Rule 19).

SENIOR DOUBLES \* – Open to USBC members who both are 50 years or older as of date of participation. This event is a scratch event. Actual scores will be used. No more than ONE bowler identified as a professional or titlist, member of a national team or collegiate bowler will be allowed per doubles team (Rule 19).

HANDICAP SINGLES - Open only to bowlers with a Sport average (or average converted to Sport) of 175 or below.

Handicap to be based on 90% of the difference between the bowler’s average and 175 per game.

Bowlers identified as a professional or titlist, member of a national team or collegiate bowler will not be allowed in Handicap Singles (Rule 19).

HANDICAP DOUBLES \* – Teams can consist of any two USBC members, where the sum of the two Sport averages totals 350 and below. Handicap to be based on 90% of the difference between the sum of the bowlers’ averages and 350 per game. Bowlers identified as a professional or titlist, member of a national team or collegiate bowler will not be allowed in Handicap Doubles (Rule 19).

**\* Multiple Doubles – (see Rule 21).**

## **6. ELIGIBILITY MEMBERSHIP**

All participants must have a current USBC Adult membership. If current membership cannot be verified, a USBC Associate membership must be purchased at the tournament site.

#### **AGE**

The tournament is open to all USBC members 18 years of age or older at the time of participation.

#### **EMPLOYEE POLICY**

USBC National Headquarters employees and tournament employees at the USBC Open or Women’s Championships and/or doubles partners are not permitted to participate in the prize funds, brackets or awards programs at the Bowlers Journal Championships.

## **7. EQUIPMENT**

The manager on duty will handle any questionable circumstances.

**BOWLING BALLS** - Every bowler must have a bowling ball and shoes for his/her exclusive use. Only USBC-approved bowling balls will be allowed and MUST have the manufacturer’s name, product name and serial number clearly visible at all times for identification purposes.

Bowlers MUST declare if they are delivering the bowling ball without a thumb inserted in the ball.

Balls and drillings must meet all USBC specifications. All bowling balls may be checked for compliance with USBC Equipment Specifications.

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.

Balls without a thumb hole must have a scribed or engraved cross-hair lines (“+”) near the center of the palm to indicate the grip orientation. The ball must be delivered in the marked orientation (i.e., palm must cover the “+”). One vent hole is allowed for each finger and/or thumb.

Holes or indentations for gripping purposes shall not exceed five and shall be limited to one for each finger and one for the thumb, all for the same hand. Any thumb hole that is not used for gripping purposes during the delivery would be classified as a balance hole.

Individuals who violate the gripping orientation rule are subject to disqualification from the tournament.

EQUIPMENT ALTERATIONS — Altering the surface of a bowling ball by the use of abrasives, cleaners or polish is prohibited during competition. In addition, no substance may be placed on the outer surface of the bowling ball. Bowlers are permitted to sand the surface of their bowling balls prior to certified competition; however, the use of abrasives strictly is prohibited once the first ball is thrown in competition. The outer surface of the bowling ball may only be cleaned with a dry towel once the bowler has begun competition.

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

#### **EQUIPMENT VIOLATION PENALTIES**

- 1) Penalty for the first offense: Individual is warned, and the ball is removed from competition.
- 2) Second offense: Disqualification from the remainder of the event in which the violation occurred.

## **8. ETIQUETTE**

Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated on the lanes or inside the tournament venue. Individuals are subject to ejection for engaging in improper tactics or conduct including, but not limited to, physical and verbal abuse toward other persons.

To maintain a consistent pace of bowling, it is proper etiquette to observe one-lane courtesy and deliver the bowling ball within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the tournament management.

## **9. FEES**

SINGLES EVENTS - Entry fee for Open Singles, Senior Singles, Super Senior Singles and Handicap Singles is \$80 per event/per bowler. Breakdown per event: \$43 for prizes, \$12 for annual Bowlers Journal subscription and \$25 for lineage and expenses. Reentry fee is at the discounted rate of \$70 per event/per bowler (\$43 for prizes and \$27 for lineage and expenses – no additional subscription).

DOUBLES EVENTS – Entry fee for Open Doubles, Senior Doubles and Handicap Doubles is \$80 per team (\$40 per bowler/per event). Breakdown per entry: \$43 for prizes and \$37 for lineage and expenses). There is no discount for reentry. Multiple Doubles – A bowler is allowed to bowl doubles with up to four (4) partners at the same time by paying the appropriate fees.

DUAL ENTRY OPTION – Pay a singles entry fee and a doubles entry fee, and your three-game total will count for both events. The bowlers who do will be eligible for the Dual Entry prize fund.

BJ JACKPOT TRIO – A special side event that includes: Clean Frame Jackpot, High Game Jackpot and Strike-It-Rich Jackpot. Entry fee is \$20 (\$17 for prizes and \$3 for expenses).

All Jackpot Trio events will feature a prize-fund-style payout with multiple cashing places based on entries.

## **10. FORMAT**

- Three (3) games will be bowled in each event.
- Maximum is six bowlers per pair.
- Bowlers will NOT be moving pairs between games.
- Bowlers Journal Championships may be subject to additional restrictions as prescribed by the venue operator.

## **11. GAMBLING**

All forms of gambling are prohibited while bowling. This includes, but is not limited to, card playing, pushing coins, etc.

## **12. LANE CONDITIONING**

Lanes will be conditioned before all squads. USBC will not disclose any pattern information until after the entire event has concluded. It is prohibited to discuss lane maintenance procedures or pattern information with tournament personnel during the tournament. Violators may be subject to disqualification. Questions or comments regarding lane maintenance must be directed to the tournament director.

## **13. LOST SCORES**

In the event a game (or portion of a game) is irretrievably lost in the scoring process, the game (or portion thereof) shall be re-bowled at a time and date determined by tournament management. Should the time and date of re-bowling be refused by the participant, USBC is liable only for the return of the entry fee paid for the event in which the loss occurred.

## **14. MEMBERSHIP**

See Eligibility – Rule 6.

## **15. PACERS**

Pacers shall not be permitted in the tournament.

## **16. PARTICIPATION**

An entrant may only enter each event in which they qualify eight (8) times. Bowlers may cash only once in each division they are eligible, and only once with the same partner in any doubles event.

## **17. PRIZE CHECKS**

A. The IRS requires USBC to furnish 1099 forms to individuals who accumulate winnings of \$600 or more annually in any USBC events in which they participate.

B. 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.

C. Prize winnings will be distributed within 30 days after the conclusion of the tournament (Rule 309) unless permission is granted to extend by USBC and will be included in the check for any earnings from the Open Championships.

D. Any prize check requiring replacement within 90 days of the tournament ending will require a \$25 replacement fee and \$50 thereafter.

E. Prize checks, or replacement checks, must be cashed by July 31, 2026, or prize winnings will be forfeited.

## **18. PRIZE RATIOS**

All prize portions of the entry money will be returned 100% in cash prizes and merchandise. Prize fund will feature a 1:6 payout ratio in every division. Bowlers may cash only once in each division they are eligible and only once with the same partner in any doubles event. Dual Entry and Jackpot Trio prize funds are optional side events. Payout ratio TBD, based on entries.

All posted prize funds and low-to-cash figures are estimates.

## **19. PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS, PAST CHAMPIONS, COLLEGIATE BOWLERS AND MEMBERS OF A NATIONAL BOWLING TEAM**

A. For the purpose of participation in the Bowlers Journal Championships, PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS are defined as:

- 1) Any bowler under the age of 60 who has won any of the following, regardless of professional status at the time of the win:
  - a. A PBA or PWBA national title
  - b. A USBC Masters or U.S. Open title
  - c. A USBC Queens or U.S. Women’s Open title from 2003 to 2014

- 2) Any bowler having applied for membership or held membership in ANY professional bowling organization during the calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2024) preceding the event, and/or up through their dates of their competition in 2025.

B. For the purpose of participation in the Bowlers Journal Championships, MEMBERS OF A NATIONAL BOWLING TEAM are defined as: any past or present member of Team USA, Junior Team USA or any other national bowling team, under the age of 60.