



2017 USBC Senior Championships Rules

The USBC Senior Championships is a handicap singles tournament consisting of two separate divisions. Handicap for each division is 90% of 220.

- Open Division - men and women
- Women's Division - women only

The tournament consists of six age classifications within each division:

50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75+

- Each USBC state and Canadian Tenpin Federation provincial association will be permitted to send a maximum of six Open Division participants and six Women's Division participants, one in each age classification.
- Merged states are required to have qualifiers coming from an open division and a women's division. Female participants will have to determine which division they want to enter at the state level. They may qualify only in that division.
- Non-merged states will conduct an open and women's senior state tournament just as they currently do and advance the winners accordingly.
- If a USBC state and CTF provincial senior tournament is not set up to include the six age classifications, but would like to send six representatives to the USBC Senior Championships, they must compile a separate record of the standings in each of the six age classifications in order to qualify the top bowler in each age category.

1. AGE / ELIGIBILITY

- 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 at a cost of \$21.00.
- Bowlers must have been at least 50 years of age at the time of participation in their respective certified state or provincial tournament. Age classification for the USBC Senior Championships will be determined on the basis of the participant's age in the state/provincial competition.
- Competitors must have bowled a minimum of six games at their state/provincial senior tournament.
- Competitors must be the handicap all-events winner in their respective age classification and division (Open or Women's). Exception to this requirement is as follows: If the winner is unable to attend, the state/provincial association can contact the next-place finisher, and go down as far as necessary in order of finish, to find a participant in the age classification. The entry fee from the original bowler is transferable to the replacement.

Each USBC state and CTF provincial association should have a tournament rule regarding ties for a championship. For example, "If a tie exists for first place within an age classification, co-champions will

be declared. For purposes of determining who will be eligible for the USBC Senior Championships, the bowler with the highest game, with handicap will advance. If a tie still exists, the second-highest game, with handicap, will be used, etc.”

2. AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS

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

A. Highest book average from 2014-15 or 2015-16 USBC/CTF winter, summer, or composite based on 21 or more games.

B. If no 2014-15 or 2015-16 USBC/CTF winter, summer, or composite average, the highest USBC/CTF winter season average as of March 1, 2017, based on 21 or more games.

C. When a bowler’s current 21 game average as of March 1, 2017 is 10 or more pins higher than the previous season’s average, that average must be used. (USBC Rule 319a - 2)

- Bowlers who have both a USBC SPORT LEAGUE average and STANDARD average from the same season shall use the higher of their Sport average (unadjusted) and standard league average.
- Any bowler who has only a USBC SPORT average must use the adjusted Sport average utilizing the USBC Average Adjustment Scale.

D. Bowlers who do not meet any of the above requirements will be entered with a 220 average.

- Failure to use the correct average shall disqualify score if submitted average is lower than correct average, thereby resulting in a higher handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the correct average. However, corrections in averages may be permitted up to the completion of the first game of a series.
- All entrants who have qualified for \$600 or more in any tournament event or division of an event during the 12 months prior to participation, must attach a report with the entry form showing actual score bowled and the amount of money won in each case. (USBC Rule 319d)
- Bowlers shall adjust their entering averages, and shall submit the adjusted average to the tournament manager, if during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date and time of bowling, the bowler’s accumulated average for all, but not less than 21 tournament games, exceeds such entering average by 15 or more pins. (USBC Rule 319e)
- All entrants must report any re-rate or adjustments to averages from any other tournament or event prior to participation.
- Failure to report prize winnings (Rule 319d), submit adjusted average under USBC Rule 319e or report any re-rates, shall be cause for disqualification. Nothing in USBC Rule 319e will be deemed to supersede the authority of tournament management to adjust a bowler’s average upward prior to bowling. For purposes of average adjustment, tournament management will use guidelines including, but not limited to, USBC averages, previous tournament winnings and any records of bowler performance from league(s) and/or tournament(s).
- A bowler’s average may be adjusted upward before participation in any event. If the assigned average is not accepted by the bowler, the entry fee shall be refunded (Rule 319c).
- Bowlers are responsible for seeing that their averages are verified before competition begins.

3. BOWLING EQUIPMENT

Every bowler must have his/her own bowling ball and bowling shoes.

Bowling Balls

- Each entrant will be allowed a maximum of eight bowling balls.
- All bowling balls must meet all USBC specifications.
- Random bowling ball checking may be done by tournament management.
- Any bowler may request to have his/her bowling balls checked prior to competition.
- The surface of the bowling ball may be altered or cleaned until the start of competition (first ball for score).
- After the bowler begins competition, the outer surface of the ball may only be cleaned with a dry towel.

Powder/Rosin

- No substance, including talcum powder or EZ Slide, can be applied to a player's shoes.
- No substance may be placed on the outer surface of the bowling ball once competition begins.

4. DEADLINES

May 1, 2017 (entry deadline)

- State associations to submit their "State's Official Entry Form" and entry fees.

May 30, 2017 (verification deadline)

- Players to submit their average verification forms.
- Players to submit shirt order forms (if not ordered by state/provincial).

5. DRESS CODE

Entrants are expected to wear suitable attire. Examples of prohibited attire include but are not limited to:

- Hats (medical reasons only)
- Tank tops, halter tops, bare midriffs, spaghetti strap tops, etc.
- Workout attire, short skirts, jeans that are not neat, clean or in good condition
- Shorts are allowed during competition. (Athletic, jeans, or cargo shorts are not allowed)

Bowlers will be required to change if attire is deemed inappropriate by tournament management or designee. Tournament management or designee decision will be final.

6. EATING – DRINKING – SMOKING

Entrants are *NOT* permitted to eat, smoke or drink alcoholic beverages while participating in the USBC Senior Championships. This includes from the start of practice to the last ball thrown for score. Bowlers

with a medical condition who must eat a small snack during competition must obtain permission from a tournament official.

7. ENTRY FEES

- \$140 per participant.
- If the state/provincial association is unable to pay the entry fees, participants must be advised that they are still eligible to participate in the Senior Championships at their own expense.
- All prize fees collected in each age classification in each division will be returned 100% to participants in those divisions.
- Additional fees will be added 100% to the prize fund for those respective divisions.

Entry fee breakdown: At least one for every three entries, per division and age classification.

Prize fee: \$100 Expense fee: \$40 Total entry fee: \$140

8. FORMAT

- Participants only compete with those in their own age division.
- All participants will bowl two three-game qualifying blocks.
- If a tie exists for sixth place after six games of qualifying, there will be a ninth and 10th frame roll-off to determine who advances to the medal round. Should a tie still exist, an additional ninth and 10th frame will be bowled. This procedure will continue until the tie is broken.
- A medal round will be held after the conclusion of qualifying. The top six scores with handicap in each division/age category will advance to the medal round and will bowl three more games to determine the champions. Qualifying scores will not be carried into the medal round.
- Bonus pins will be awarded to the six qualifiers based on qualifying position: 50 pins for first, 40 pins for second, 30 pins for third, 20 pins for fourth, 10 pins for fifth, and 0 pins for sixth. Bonus pins will be added to the three game total during the medal round.
- If a tie exists after the medal round for first, second, or third place there will be a ninth and 10th frame roll-off to determine that position. Should a tie still exist, an additional 9th and 10th frame will be bowled. This procedure will continue until the tie is broken.
- Twelve champions will be declared, one in each of the six age classifications in the Open Division and the Women's Division.

9. GAMBLING

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

10. LATE ARRIVAL

Any participant arriving late for the qualifying blocks will begin play in the frame then being bowled. A bowler will not be credited with any pins for frames missed.

11. PRIZE CHECKS AND AWARDS

- 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.
- Failure to furnish a Social Security number (U.S. citizens) or ITIN (non-U.S. citizens) to USBC at check-in will result in a 30% tax reduction of the prize check.
- All winners' averages are subject to further verification by USBC tournament management.
- Awards will be presented for the top six places in each division.
- Prize checks are distributed at the tournament. Participants must provide photo ID to pick up prize checks. Prize checks that are not distributed will be mailed to participants within 30 days of the conclusion of the tournament.

12. SCORING ERRORS

Any claims for errors in scoring or calculation must be filed with the tournament management no later than 15 minutes after completion of the block.

*The USBC tournament management has the authority to make decisions regarding anything not covered by these rules.

TERMINATION CLAUSE

To the Chief Operating Officer of the United States Bowling Congress: I hereby make application to participate in the USBC Senior Championships events listed and tender the entry fees required therefore. I warrant that I am a USBC member. I agree to abide by all tournament and playing rules and regulations prescribed by USBC, including all provisions set forth on this form. I specifically agree for myself and any replacement chosen for me that if I am not eligible for participation and/or cannot bowl in the USBC Senior Championships, 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 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 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 there from, 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 by me or 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 USBC Senior Championships, absent willful or gross negligence on the part of USBC.

Revised 11/10/16