

2026 Iowa Youth Scratch Championships

District Level Rules and Format

“USBC Certification 04399”

****YOU MUST FURNISH THESE RULES TO EACH BOWLER ADVANCING TO DISTRICTS****

1. This tournament is certified by the United States Bowling Congress (#04399) and shall be governed by USBC rules.
2. League level qualifying dates are any two, one-week periods between October 1 and November 30, 2025. The windows do **not** have to be consecutive. Advancement from league is a one-time entry. If an individual qualified cannot participate in this competition, replacements will be eligible based on order of finish in previous competition. **Replacements must advance from the same league and window based on order of finish.**
3. Advancement ratio from league competition to district competition is at least 1:4 entries per division, per league, or **any** fraction thereof, including last place ties for all divisions. The base number for each division is **the number of certified individuals that could have participated in that division**. In all cases, at least one person per division shall advance.
4. Advancers out of the league level must remain in the division they qualified in during all subsequent levels. If a bowler advances out of league level in more than one state/zone, the bowler must declare one state/zone to continue competing before the next competition level. Participation in any level of competition past the league level in more than one state/zone will result in automatic disqualification.
5. Competition will take place on February 14-15, 2026 – depending on what district you are in. See enclosed list for district sites.
6. Entry closing date in December 5, 2025. A tournament entry form for each qualifier containing the bowler's name, address, telephone number, date of birth, and national ID number must be postmarked by this date and mailed to the state tournament director, Seth Ketelsen, at the address listed at the end of these rules. **Entries will not be accepted if a division has been crossed out and another circled. A new entry form MUST be prepared and submitted.**
7. Divisions are based on the participant's age. **Athletes must choose the division in which they will compete. Athletes must be Junior Gold members or be eligible and buy membership prior to advancement to the Junior Gold Championships. Competition shall be conducted in the following divisions:**

Boys Divisions: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, and U18

Girls Divisions: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, and U18
8. The tournament format shall be 3 games for each division.
9. Entry fee is:

Sectional Lineage & Scorekeeping	\$ 9.00
Expenses**	\$ 8.30
Awards***	\$ 0.50
Scholarships***	\$ <u>7.20</u>
	\$25.00

**Expenses include lineage and scorekeeping at the state level for all divisions. There is no additional entry fee for bowlers advancing to the state finals.

***Awards and Scholarship fees shall be returned 100% to the bowlers. Scholarships will be held in the SMART Fund (**Account #8521**).

10. All bowlers must wear suitable attire. All clothing must not contain any reference to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, profanity, or firearms/weapons. No hats or hoods shall be worn. No exposed undergarments or midriffs will be allowed. **Entrants will not bowl if proper attire is not worn.** The Tournament Director will make final determination of attire. No smoking, vaping or alcoholic beverages will be allowed in the center for the duration of the tournament.

11. No substitutions will be permitted once athletes have started tournament play. However, replacements may be used for bowlers not present 10 minutes prior to the squad time as stated in Rule 2. **Replacements must be from the same window, same league, and same center as to the “no-show” bowler. They must follow the order of advancement within that window/league.**
12. Competitors shall be allowed practice balls on each lane of their starting lanes with the time frame to be determined by the District Supervisor.
13. If no replacement has been made, bowlers arriving late shall begin play and the score shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled. Missed frames shall be credited with a zero. **Frames may not be made-up.** Bowlers not present to bowl when it is their turn will be credited with a zero for that frame.
14. Only bowlers and tournament officials shall be permitted in the settee area.
15. All last place ties will advance to the state level. There will be no roll-off.
16. Claims for errors in scoring or general playing rules must be made to the tournament director no later than the start of the next block or 30 minutes after the completion of competition. Questionable errors shall be decided upon the tournament director. All other protests must be confirmed in writing to the tournament director within 72 hours of the infraction. Under this rule, each protest must be specific in itself.
17. No awards will be presented at the district level of competition.
18. Advancement ratio from district level to the state level is at least 1 for every 5 entries for all divisions, or **any** fraction thereof, including last place ties. In all cases at least one individual per division shall advance.
19. Participants are not allowed to use tobacco products of any kind during competition play, under penalty of disqualification from the tournament.
20. The state level competition will take place on March 14 & 15, 2026 at Cadillac XBC, Waterloo, Iowa.
21. All matters not covered by these rules and regulations shall be determined by the Iowa USBC Youth Scratch Championships Tournament Committee. The National USBC Youth Scratch Championships Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any participant.



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