

2026 USBC Youth Scratch Championships

LEAGUE LEVEL RULES

“USBC Certification # ”

(ATHLETES MUST SEE THESE RULES AND CHOOSE THEIR OWN DIVISION)

1. The USBC Youth Scratch Championships is certified by the United States Bowling Congress (#) and governed by USBC rules.
2. Competition is open to all 2025-2026 USBC Youth members. To compete, a bowler must be a regular member of a certified USBC Youth league. USBC Collegiate members are eligible if they are 2025-2026 USBC Youth members, bowl in a USBC Youth league, and have not violated USBC Rule 400.
3. All USBC Youth members in good standing are eligible for the league level competition. There is no entry fee at the league level. Bowling centers having 2025-2026 USBC certified leagues are automatic league level qualifying sites.
4. Participants must be aware of each competition level in the state/zone and all associated rules, fees, and deadlines. These items are contained in the specific state/zone rules from the State/Zone Youth Scratch Championships director, Seth Ketelsen.
5. Competition will be conducted in twelve (12) divisions based on the participant's age as listed below. Participation in the wrong age division will lead to automatic disqualification. Bowlers must stay in the given division in that league throughout the entire window:

U8 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2017 or later	U8 Girls
U10 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2015 thru 7/31/2017	U10 Girls
U12 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2013 thru 7/31/2015	U12 Girls
U14 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2011 thru 7/31/2013	U14 Girls
U16 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2009 thru 7/31/2011	U16 Girls
U18 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2007 thru 7/31/2009	U18 Girls

*One way to think about this is...If a bowler turns 9, 11, 13, 15, or 17 during the bowling season, he/she would be in the next highest age division.

***There is no requirement of USBC Junior Gold membership to enter U12, U14, U16, and U18 Divisions!**

6. Participants must remain in that division for the duration of that window. Bowlers are eligible to compete in a different division in a different league during the league level of competition.
7. League level qualifying will be conducted in certified leagues during the qualifying windows. Qualifying windows are any two one-week periods between October 1, 2025 and November 30, 2025. The two one-week periods do **not** need to be consecutive. Each state/zone Youth Scratch Championships committee decides the qualifying window dates. If needed, the state/zone Youth Scratch Championships director can grant changes in the qualifying dates to individual bowling centers.
8. Qualifying scores must be bowled during regularly scheduled league play. **Pre-bowled or post-bowled scores may not be used as scores for advancement purposes.** Advancement to the next competition level (district level) will be from the league level. 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.
9. Participants can attempt to qualify in any state/zone where they hold a 2025-2026 USBC Youth membership card. However, the bowler can only advance once using the following criteria:
 - A. In the event a bowler qualifies in more than one league in the same division, the bowler must advance from the league in which the **highest series** was bowled. For identical qualifying scores, the member will advance from the league where the first score was bowled.
 - B. If a bowler qualifies in different leagues from multiple divisions, the bowler **must select** one division they will compete in before subsequent competition.

C. If the bowler advances out of league level in more than one state/zone, the bowler **must declare** one state/zone to continue competing in before the next competition level.

D. Participation in any level of competition past the league level in more than one state/zone and/or more than one division will result in automatic disqualification.

Note: Advancers remain in the division they qualified in during the league level in all subsequent competition. If there is a tie for the last-place qualifier in a division, both will advance to the next level of competition.

10. Participants are not allowed to use tobacco products of any kind during competition play, under penalty of disqualification from the tournament.

STATE/ZONE LEVEL

11. The top one (1) bowlers in the U12 Boys, U12 Girls, U14 Boys, U14 Girls, U16 Boys, U16 Girls, U18 Boys, and U18 Girls divisions at the state/zone competition with the highest scratch score will earn a berth to the Junior Gold Championships to be held July 11-18, 2026 in Minneapolis, MN. Bowlers are not required to have a minimum average or be a Junior Gold Program member to enter the U12 Boys, U12 Girls, U14 Boys, U14 Girls, U16 Boys, U16 Girls, U18 Boys, and U18 Girls at the local level of qualifying for the Youth Scratch Championships. However, to receive the berth, the bowler must be a USBC Youth Standard member and USBC Junior Gold Program member prior to the Junior Gold Championships. **If the winner is not eligible for the championships, he/she will still retain all awards from the state/zone, but the next eligible bowler will receive the berth to the Junior Gold Championships.**

12. Advancers to the Junior Gold Championships must agree to bowl in the Junior Gold Championships or, failing to do so, agree to waive all rights. Replacements will be selected based on the order of finish in their division at the state/zone level.

13. Failure to abide by any rules and regulations will lead to disqualification from this event. The Youth Scratch Championships National Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any participant.

14. The Youth Scratch Championships National Tournament Committee will decide all matters not covered by these rules and regulations, or USBC rules and regulations. All decisions are final.

ALL BOWLERS MUST SEE AND UNDERSTAND THESE RULES



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