

2026 IOWA USBC YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS TOURNAMENT

STATE RULES AND FORMAT

“USBC Certification 04400”

1. This tournament is certified by the United States Bowling Congress (#04400) and shall be governed by USBC rules.
2. Dates of district level qualifying are February 14-15, 2026. If an individual who qualified cannot participate in the state/zone competition, replacements will be eligible based on order of finish in district competition.
3. Advancement ratio from district level to the state level is at least 1 for every 5 entries for all age divisions, or **any** fraction thereof, including last place ties. In all cases at least one individual per division shall advance.
4. Competition will take place on March 14-15, 2026 at Cadillac XBC, Waterloo, Iowa.
5. Entry closing date is February 15, 2026. 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.**
6. 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
7. The tournament format shall be 3 games on one pair of lanes for the U12, U10, and U8 divisions. Bowlers in the U14, U16, and U18 divisions shall bowl 6 games across 6 pairs of lanes.
8. There is no additional entry fee for the state level of competition. All fees are paid at the district level.
9. **All bowlers must wear suitable attire. All clothing must not contain any reference to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or profanity. No hats or hoods shall be worn. No exposed undergarments or midriffs will be allowed.**
10. 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 order of finish from prior level of competition (i.e. the same division and same district as the absent bowler).
11. Competitors shall be allowed 5 minutes of practice balls on each lane of their starting lanes.
12. 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.
13. Only bowlers and tournament officials shall be permitted in the settee area.
14. Ties affecting advancement to the Junior Gold Championships will be broken by a one-game roll-off. Should a tie still exist, it will be broken by an additional 9th and 10th frame roll-off (refer to rule 326a). Ties not affecting advancement will not be subject to a roll-off. The affected scholarships will be added together and divided by the number of tied bowlers. In the case of a tie for the last scholarship position, duplicate scholarships will be presented. In the case of a medal position, duplicate medals will be awarded.

15. Claims for errors in scoring or general playing rules to the tournament director before the awards are presented. Questionable errors shall be decided upon by the tournament director. All other protest must be confirmed in writing to the tournament director **before the awards are presented**. Under this rule, each protest must be specific.
16. Symbolic awards will be given as follows: each state participant will receive a memento. Scholarship winners in all 10 divisions will receive a certificate. Medals will be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers in all divisions.
17. Scholarships will be given as follows: 1 for every 10, or any fraction thereof, in all 10 divisions, with a minimum of 3 scholarships per division. Scholarships will be held in the SMART Fund (**Account #8521**).
18. The first-place winners of the U12, U14, U16, and U18 Divisions for both Girls and Boys will advance to the 2026 Junior Gold Championships on July 11-18, 2026 in the Minneapolis, MN area. They must be USBC Junior Gold members to advance to the Junior Gold Championships. Bowlers without a current Junior Gold membership must purchase a Junior Gold membership prior to June 8. USBC will waive the \$250 (U18 and U16), \$200 (U14), and \$150 (U12) entry fee for these athletes. These athletes will compete for additional scholarships available to all athletes at the championships, as well as other prizes and awards. All U.S. citizens are vying for a spot on USBC Junior Team USA 2023 to represent the United States in national and international competition. If the U12, U14, U16, and U18 Division Champion is unwilling to become a Junior Gold member they will not advance to the Junior Gold Championships. However, the athlete will still retain the state/zone scholarship, but the berth to the Junior Gold Championships will be awarded to the next eligible athlete. In the event that a qualifier needs to be replaced and there is a tie to determine who should advance to the Junior Gold Championships, the high game from qualifying scores will determine who will advance. If the high score for each is the same, the next subsequent high score will be used until the tie is broken.
19. Eligible advancers 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. Replacements will incur all costs associated with changing the airline ticket, if applicable.
20. Participants are not allowed to use tobacco products of any kind during competition play, under penalty of disqualification from the tournament.
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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