

2026 INDIANA STATE USBC YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT RULES

1. **Participant must be a certified USBC Indiana youth league bowler or a certified youth collegiate bowler with a verifiable Indiana home residency. No Bumper or Carpet Bowlers.**
2. All bowlers MUST use their highest 2024-2025 certified league average with minimum 12 games as of July 31, 2025 that can be verified on bowl.com. If they do not have an average from 2024-2025 with the minimum number of games met, then they can use their current average for 2025-2026 as long as they have bowled 12 games in the same certified league such as high school, middle school or youth league to bowl in this tournament and verification must be provided by a league official. If the bowler does not bring a certification signed by a league official or does not have a current league average, the bowler will bowl scratch (230). **No tournament averages will be allowed. Certified string pin averages will be allowed for this tournament.**
3. Handicap – Handicap for the singles event and all events will be 100% of the highest average in the bowler's divisions. Handicap for doubles and team event is 100% of the difference of the sum of the averages of the bowlers and the highest average in the team's division.
4. Rule 319a will apply except (1) to averages of 12 or more games as of date the youth is bowling in the tournament and (2) a current average at the time of bowling in the tournament is 10 or more pins higher than the July 31, 2025, then the higher average must be used. Rules 319 (b), (c), (d), and (e) will not apply.
 - a. **Coaches must furnish copies of the most recent standing sheets of all certified leagues including all high school standing sheets your bowlers participate in no later than 1 week before they bowl in the tournament.**
5. You may **bowl only once** in any event. If bowling in Singles, **you must bowl in doubles** (consecutively). Singles will be bowled first.
6. Bowlers from the host association may substitute for absent bowlers, but only their original entry will qualify for all events and singles. It is highly encouraged that all local bowlers bowl the 1st weekend of the tournament in order to be able to sub when needed.
7. When a substitute bowler starts bowling for an absent or tardy bowler, he/she will finish the event. No switching or changing of assigned times or original line-up will be permitted except in the case of an emergency to be decided by the Tournament Director or assigned representative. **Replacement bowler will be inserted for missing bowler. No rearranging of lineup.**
 - a. **A bowler who has started bowling in the Team or Doubles event that cannot complete the series because of an emergency, injury or illness will receive a blind score of his/her average less 10 pins, plus handicap for all frames and games not completed. See Rule 108a.**
8. All teams will be unisex and can consist of boys, girls, or mixed. Divisions will be determined strictly by average or combined averages. Teams will consist of 4 bowlers. Doubles will consist of 2 bowlers.
9. Awards & Scholarships – Symbolic awards will be awarded to the Top 5 finishers in Div. 1 through 5 only for Singles, Doubles, Team and All Events. Scholarships will be awarded at least 1:20 ratio in the Team, Doubles, Singles, and All Events. A bowler can win both Scratch and Handicap. All scholarship fees are returned 100%.
10. The scholarship funds earned in this tournament will be deposited in the SMART Scholarship Program (#9991) at USBC.
11. **Once a Recap sheet is turned in, scores are final. It cannot be changed except where there is an obvious error in a scoring calculation. All corrections must only be made on the original score sheet by a Tournament Official in red ink.**
12. Check in will start a minimum of 60 minutes before the start of the squad. Bowlers must be wearing what they are bowling in at check-in. **Bowlers must be present 30 minutes before the start of singles and doubles event or the team event. Bowlers will have their team pictures taken prior to team event. All coaches must check-in at the tournament office 1 hour prior to squad time.**
13. Falsification on the entry will result in automatic disqualification of bowler/bowlers.
14. **The use of tobacco, vaping or alcohol in any form during competition is prohibited by anyone.**
15. **DRESS CODE: Proper attire must be worn at all times. Shirts with sleeves must be worn. No shirts with obscene advertising or alcohol or tobacco advertisement may be worn. No halter tops may be worn. Boy's shorts and Girls shorts/skorts/skirts need to be past the fingertips with arms in a relaxed position at their side. IF JEANS ARE WORN, THEY MAY HAVE HOLES IN THEM BUT ONLY IN AREAS THAT DON'T SHOW IMPROPER SKIN. All necessary underclothes must be worn. COACHES – PLEASE POLICE THIS YOURSELVES as you will be the one asked to handle!!! Tournament Officials will decide any questionable attire.**
16. Any rules not covered herein will be covered by USBC playing rules and specifications until the end of the 2025-2026 bowling season. The Tournament Director and/or the Tournament Committee will make all decisions which will be final, subject to review by the Indiana State USBC Board and/or the USBC rules committee.
17. Tournament applications submitted without payment or incomplete will be returned. All entries will be processed in order by date received. **Last postmarked date to accept walk-in entries will be April 4, 2026 with payment included. Reservations will be made with tournament mgr. only this year and must be paid in full and completed entries received no later than January 31, 2026 for reservations made ahead of time. Any reservation not paid before this date will potentially lose their bowling times since at this point those times are open to everyone else again and only paid spots will be have their spots guaranteed. Credit card payments can still be made with a 3% fee added to the entry by making arrangements for payment.**
18. No coaches, parents or non-bowlers are allowed in the settee area during competition. Any special circumstances regarding this rule must be addressed by a Tournament Official. **If you have any special needs bowlers, please provide details at the time applications are submitted and we will make every effort to facilitate those needs during competition.**
19. The Indiana State USBC Youth Championship Tournament will follow 1 lane courtesy.
20. In case of center equipment failure or delay, the Tournament Director will make the decision according to USBC Rule 327c. If by war, fire, tornado, gas shortage, water damage, labor strikes, epidemic, etc. an Act of God, it becomes impossible to conduct or complete this tournament as publicized, there shall be no further liability of the Indiana State USBC Youth Championship Tournament to entrants.

Notice to Bowlers: Anyone found in violation of any of the above rules may have scores disqualified.

SPECIAL NOTICE: Anyone displaying unsportsmanlike conduct (cursing, deliberate fouling, obscene or derogatory gestures, kicking ball returns or walls, etc.) may result in disqualification. Any bowler(s) causing a disturbance as determined by either a complaint from other bowlers or as deemed disruptive by a tournament director may lead to disqualification. This rule also includes parents or spectators and those issues will be addressed by having the person(s) removed from the center.

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ENTRY –NO PERSONAL CHECKS OR CASH ACCEPTED
MAKE BOWLING CENTER CHECK, CERTIFIED OR CASHIER'S CHECK PAYABLE TO "Indiana State USBC Youth Tournament".
\$35.00 FEE ATTACHED TO ANY RETURNED CHECKS