

Chapter 1: Introduction

USBC Mission

The United States Bowling Congress, as the national governing body, ensures the integrity and protects the future of the sport, provides programs and services and enhances the bowling experience.

Membership

How Obtained

Membership in USBC is composed of adults and youth who have paid the appropriate USBC, and if applicable, state and local association dues. Membership in USBC may be obtained through a league, tournament, chartered association, Alliance-at-Large and via BOWL.com. Upon completing a membership application card and paying the appropriate dues, an individual becomes a member of USBC plus one USBC local and one USBC state association.

A new member who joins a summer league after March 15 of the current season shall, at the time the individual files his/her application for membership, pay only those annual USBC, state and local dues that are then known to be, or to become, effective for the next season. Upon payment of such dues, the individual shall be granted membership in USBC and applicable state and local associations for the balance of the current season and the next season.

A bowler must pay dues in each local association in which he/she applies for membership and/or bowls, except as provided in Rule 100e, Traveling leagues, 100l, Mail-o-graphic leagues or if the associations have a reciprocal agreement to waive dues. When a bowler joins a local association, he/she shall join the applicable state association. Regardless of the number of state and local associations in which an individual holds membership, he/she shall pay current USBC national membership dues only one time.

Upon obtaining membership in USBC each member agrees to be bound by all final decisions of USBC concerning application or interpretation of USBC Bylaws, playing rules and other matters relating to the sport of bowling as governed by USBC.

Required Fees

Each individual applying for USBC membership shall pay annual dues not to exceed:

| <u>Adult Dues</u> | | <u>Youth Standard Dues</u> | | <u>Youth Basic/High School Dues</u> | |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| USBC | \$10.00 | USBC | \$14.50 | USBC | \$4.00 |
| Maximum State | \$ 1.00 | State | \$.50 | Local Processing | \$1.00 |
| Maximum Local | \$10.00 | Local Processing | \$ 2.00 | Total | \$5.00 |
| Total Maximum | \$21.00 | Total | \$17.00 | | |

State and local dues (adult only) amounts will not exceed the maximums established by USBC delegates. Youth dues may be different from adult dues.



Members of multiple local associations pay the appropriate state, if required, and local dues or processing fees (youth), unless the associations have a reciprocal agreement to waive or reduce dues.

If a youth purchases youth an adult membership, national dues are only paid once.

Effective Dates

On receipt of a membership application and the appropriate dues, a membership card will be valid:

- a. For the season starting August 1 through July 31.
- b. Through October 1 of the following season for summer leagues and tournaments.
Youth who turn 20 during the season are not granted the October 1 extension for tournament play; youth membership expires July 31 of the season in which they turn 20 years old. If a youth member bowling in a summer league turns 20 during the season and the league continues beyond July 31, the bowler may complete the league as a youth bowler. **For individuals authorized as mentally challenged, the age requirement is waived.**
- c. Through the balance of the current season and the following season when purchased after March 15 either through a summer league or associate membership.

For membership to be effective as of the date purchased in a league, the league secretary must forward the league membership dues, application cards and league application to the local association within 30 days. Otherwise, membership benefits are not effective until the date received at the local association office.

Possession of a valid membership card entitles the bowler to participate in all USBC competition for which they are otherwise qualified.

Changes in Dues

The maximum dues structure for adults may only be changed by the USBC delegation. The dues structure for youths may only be changed by the USBC Board based on recommendations from the Youth Committee.

Types of Membership

In addition to USBC adult and youth standard membership, USBC offers the following optional benefits.

Sport Bowling

All bowlers participating in USBC Sport Bowling leagues must pay or provide proof of payment of the Sport Bowling membership dues (\$15 for adults; \$10 for youth) in addition to all required standard USBC membership dues. Unless required by tournament rule, participants in Sport Bowling tournaments are not required to be Sport Bowling members.

Substitutes in USBC Sport Bowling leagues are permitted to participate in one league session per season without the requirement to purchase Sport Bowling membership if he/she already has purchased USBC standard membership for the current season. Only USBC Sport Bowling members are eligible for USBC Sport Bowling awards.



The standard USBC membership dues for USBC Lifetime members will be paid by USBC, but the bowler is responsible for paying the additional Sport Bowling dues.

Junior Gold

Membership consists of elite youth bowlers who must:

- a. Be a USBC Youth standard member in good standing and maintain compliance with Rule 400.
- b. Carry a minimum average of 21 games based on the previous season or 12 games of the current season as follows:
 1. Boys: 175 average.
 2. Girls: 150 average.
- c. Purchase an additional Junior Gold membership of \$30 separate from regular USBC Youth standard membership.
 1. Junior Gold members will receive a youth Sport membership.
 2. Junior Gold membership is valid:
 - a) For the season starting August 1 through July 31.
 - b) Through October 1 of the following season for summer leagues.
 3. Junior Gold membership must be purchased prior to entry into a qualifying event for the USBC Junior Gold Championships.

Youth Basic

The USBC Youth Basic membership will cost \$5 and be available to all youth who bowl in a league that meets for 12 or fewer sessions. Benefits include:

- a. USBC Youth membership card
- b. USBC recognized average
- c. The ability to participate in USBC certified tournaments for that season ending July 31.
- d. Access to the USBC Youth Purchasable Awards program.

Associate

Associate membership is available to individuals who do not obtain membership through a USBC league subject to the following:

- a. The associate membership dues shall be:
 1. Adult – National dues (\$10) plus the actual dues charged by the local and state association the bowler is joining. When local and state dues are not known, adult associate dues will be \$21 (\$10 national, \$10 local, \$1 state)
 2. Youth – \$17
- b. When associate membership is obtained after March 15, the individual shall become a member for the balance of the current season and the next season.
- c. The dues automatically will be adjusted whenever changes are made to the national, state and local dues.

Collegiate

USBC Collegiate membership is available to student-athletes participating on an intercollegiate team. Each intercollegiate team must complete an application for membership and submit the required dues for each student athlete. Each student-athlete must complete a USBC membership application.



By purchasing a membership through USBC Collegiate, collegiate members receive USBC National Membership and a Sport membership upgrade only. USBC Collegiate membership entitles student-athletes to participate in certified USBC Collegiate competition. To participate in USBC standard or Sport competition, the applicable state/local membership dues must be paid.

High School

Individual: USBC High School membership will cost \$5 and be available to all youth who bowl in recognized interscholastic competitions between two or more schools. Benefits include:

- a. USBC Youth membership card.
- b. USBC recognized average consisting of all complete games bowled by the member (minimum of 12 games) in eligible competitions.
- c. The ability to participate in USBC certified tournaments for that season ending July 31.
- d. Members will be eligible for USBC High Score Awards bowled during USBC certified competition (excludes high school matches that are not USBC certified).
- e. Members are eligible for scholarships and awards available through the USBC Coaches Registration Program.

The membership is valid for recognized high school competitions during each individual team's official high school bowling season up through any state high school championship event. Should a member wish to participate in other USBC Youth league competition, he/she must obtain USBC membership and pay the necessary fees. Current year USBC Standard members may participate in this program without payment of additional fees.

The USBC High School Coaches Registration Program: (formerly the High School Team Membership Program) is open to all Interscholastic Coaches free of charge. Coaches can register their high school bowlers and receive benefits from USBC.

The Coaches Registration Program is valid solely for recognized high school competitions during each individual teams' official high school bowling season. In order to participate in other USBC Youth competitions, (non High School) the individual must obtain USBC membership by paying all required membership dues.

Averages from the USBC High School Coaches Registration Program will not be recognized for entry purposes into any other USBC leagues and/or tournaments.

USBC Lifetime

Former ABC Lifetime and WIBC Permanent Membership will be recognized by USBC Headquarters. Membership dues will be credited by USBC to the appropriate state and local association(s) upon submission of the membership application. In addition, USBC will reimburse membership dues for one local association and one state association per season.

Optional Benefits

USBC:

- a. May offer optional benefits for members at dues reflective of the value of services provided by USBC, state and/or local associations.
- b. May offer optional benefits for men, women and youth bowlers who choose to be identified with USBC. Dues will reflect the level of membership privileges, services and benefits provided.
- c. Determines dues for USBC and establishes the maximum amount of state and local dues only for optional benefits.

The association must offer all levels of membership as established by USBC.

USBC is authorized to test optional benefits prior to offering them, and to waive those specific bylaws, rules and regulations required for testing and implementation.

Youth Membership Eligibility

Rule 400

For youth membership in USBC, individuals shall not have reached their 20th birthday on or before August 1 of the current bowling season. Individuals who purchase Youth membership in a summer league and turn 20 on or before August 1 will receive the current season membership. The age limitation is waived for those authorized as mentally challenged.

- a. Except as provided in Item b, a youth may not bowl, substitute or pace in any bowling activity which offers any of the following as prizes:
 1. Cash or bonds.
 2. Merchandise exceeding \$500 in value.
- b. Youth may bowl in singles competitions (including side competitions/brackets) offering such prizes, provided, prior to bowling:
 1. The competition agrees to award the youth's prize in the form of a scholarship; or
 2. The youth signs the USBC Singles Competition Prize Waiver waiving his/her rights to any prize in violation of this rule.

In youth competition, youth members may participate in side competitions/brackets provided all entries are returned 100% in the form of scholarships only and awards comply with Item a above. Buying or selling of earned prizes is prohibited.

Any youth bowler deemed in violation of this rule is subject to disciplinary action including the potential loss of youth membership.

NOTE: There are no limits on scholarship amounts or entry fees (must be paid directly to the tournament director/manager) and reimbursement of actual travel expenses into the next higher level of competition or any tournament or event. (Receipts must be provided upon request.)



The prizes authorized by a state high school athletic association or a collegiate athletic association recognized by USBC and USBC Collegiate are not subject to the limitations of this rule.

Amendment Procedures

Amendments submitted by a member or chartered association to the USBC General Playing Rules, Adult League and Tournament Rules must be in writing to the USBC by September 1 prior to the date of the next USBC Annual Meeting for action by the delegates.

The USBC Board, by a two-thirds vote, amends the USBC Awards and Youth League and Tournament Rules. The USBC Board also has authority to adopt Resolutions.

The Equipment Specifications and Certification Committee, acting for and on behalf of the USBC Board, are authorized to have final authority to alter or change specifications. All proposed amendments to certification regulations or measurement specifications must be submitted in writing to USBC Headquarters.

Membership Meetings

With the exception of affiliate status associations, the local association is required to hold at least one membership meeting each season.

At a membership meeting, elective positions are filled according to the provisions of Article V of the local association bylaws.

The meeting is open to the entire membership of the association and is under the direction of the board. All regular business is considered at the meeting.

The president may call other membership meetings as considered necessary, but shall call a meeting of the association upon written request of at least three board members or at least 25 members of the association.

The association manager forwards a written notice of all membership meetings to each league secretary and the association board. All notices should be forwarded to the league secretaries and association board at least 15 days in advance of the meeting. The league secretary shall notify the members of the league.

