



MSUSBC 2025-26 Open Tournament Rules

1) ELIGIBILITY: All entrants in the Maine State USBC Open Tournament must be members in good standing with their Local Maine USBC Association, Maine State USBC, and USBC.

Youth bowlers who meet the above criteria may enter the singles event only provided that prior to bowling:

- The competition agrees to award the youth's prize in the form of a scholarship; or the youth signs a form waiving their rights to any prize in violation of this rule.

Any bowler under the age of 18 must furnish written authorization, signed by a parent or guardian, with their entry form.

Maine residents who are not MSUSBC members may bowl in the tournament if they provide verification of Maine residency and by paying the \$25 associate membership fee prior to the closing date and must bowl scratch.

No one may bowl in this tournament except those originally entered or such replacements as may be authorized by the Tournament Manager.

2) EQUIPMENT: The Tournament Manager reserves the right to have bowlers' equipment inspected for compliance with USBC rules. If any bowling equipment is determined to be non-conforming, the bowler will be permitted to bring the equipment into compliance. Should a bowler refuse the equipment inspection or fail to bring their equipment into compliance, she will automatically be disqualified and forfeit all entry and prize fees, as well as possible prizes won.

3) CHECK-IN: Check-in is one hour prior to squad time. All bowlers must check in with their USBC cards if asked to do so by tournament management.

4) DIVISIONS: The tournament will consist of scratch and handicap divisions, including All-Events.

5) HANDICAP: Handicap will be 100% of 240 with no maximum.

6) GAME PLAY: Whenever possible, no more than three (3) bowlers will be scheduled on a lane for doubles and singles. All games, of each event, will be rolled on one pair of lanes. Teams bowling unopposed don't need to finish a frame before starting another frame.

7) LATE BOWLERS & PACERS: Any entrant arriving late will be permitted to bowl, beginning in the frame being bowled. No score will be given for the missed frames. USBC Rule 322a. Pacers are not allowed.

8) PARTICIPATION: Unlimited entry is allowed in team and doubles events subject to: (a) no more than two bowlers can compete on the same team more than once; (b) doubles cannot be bowled more than once with the same partner; and (c) the first appearance in any event counts toward the bowler's All-Events score. Team will consist of four bowlers. Re-entries will be allowed subject to tournament manager's discretion and lane availability. Re-entry

must be no less than 30 minutes prior to expected squad starting time if later than scheduled squad starting time.

9) INJURIES, SUBSTITUTES: If a scheduled entrant is unable to bowl in the team or doubles event, the team captain has the right to substitute a bowler, subject to approval by the Tournament Manager. *Substitutions must be reported to the Tournament Manager at least one hour before scheduled squad time except in cases of emergency.*

10) ENTRY FEES: Shall be paid by check or money order and made payable to: MSUSBC, postmarked no later than the first post office business day following the entry closing date. *Total entry fee must accompany entry form.*

In the event of a returned check, all reasonable attempts will be made to notify the bowler by email or a phone call, prior to the start of the tournament. The bowler will not be scheduled to bowl, until a \$20.00 processing fee and the entry fee are paid with a money order or cashier's check. Returned checks will not be re-deposited. Entry fees will not be refunded after entries have been received, except as noted in *Rules 16 and 22. All late entries will be returned.*

11) PRIZES: The tournament will consist of scratch and handicap, including All-Events, with equal prize distribution. All prize fees will be returned 100% in each event, with 50% going to handicap and 50% to scratch. The Prize ratio is at least 1:10 or major portion thereof for teams, doubles and singles; and 1:20 or major portion thereof for All-Events. Prior to the issuance of any prize checks, all averages will be verified through the Local Association Managers and the USBC database at the tournament manager's discretion.

When a Bowler Qualifies for Both Handicap and Scratch Awards
The bowler will be awarded the prize of greater value. If the prizes are of equal value, the bowler will be awarded the scratch prize.

State Champions in Handicap and Scratch – If there is a tie for any championship, co-champions will be declared.

All-Events Scratch Winner – will receive a bowling shirt, a 50% paid entry into the next USBC Masters Tournament and \$100.00 toward expenses, with the provision that the bowler participates. The bowler who places first in All-Events scratch is entitled to the award, excluding cash, whether or not the bowler paid the optional All Events fee. In case of a tie, the highest scratch singles event score will win the award. If the first-place winner is unable to attend, the second-place winner will be eligible to enter the Masters with the same entitlement. If neither can participate in the USBC Masters tournament, the scratch winner will receive a paid entry into the next year's Maine State Open Tournament, in lieu of the Masters Tournament entry fee and expense allocation. This award is funded by MSUSBC.

12) AVERAGES: Entrants must use their composite USBC average from the prior season based on a minimum of 21 games,

Bowlers with no prior season average - will use their January 1 current season composite 21 game average. If no January 1 current



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season average, highest current USBC season average of 21-games or more, as of the entry closing date of the tournament. Entrants who do not have a minimum 21 games average must bowl scratch.

CORRECTIONS TO AVERAGES: - Can be made up to the end of the bowler's first game of a series. Or, if an extension of time has been granted in writing by tournament management before the end of the first game of a series, the correction can be made within 48 hours after the end of the series. See USBC rule 319a.

AVERAGE ADJUSTMENTS: The Tournament Manager reserves the right to adjust any bowler's average prior to bowling. If the bowler refuses the adjusted average, the entry fee will be refunded.

BOWLER'S RESPONSIBILITY: It is the bowlers' responsibility to verify their average, whether submitted by the bowler, team captain, or others. Failure to use the proper average or to correct the average prior to, or at the time of bowling, shall disqualify the scores only if the submitted average is lower than the actual USBC average. Prize winnings will be based on the submitted average, if it is higher.

Reporting Prior Prize Winnings - Any entrant with any cash prize earnings in the last 12 months may be subject to an average re-rating per USBC Rules 319c, 319d, 319e. The bowler must report the amount, score, and prize position prior to the start of the tournament.

13)SCHEDULING: If entries are postmarked by the entry closing date of the tournament, bowlers traveling the greatest distance will be given priority. All other entries will be scheduled as received. Lane assignments will be posted on www.msusbc-maine.com and will be sent to Association Managers and bowling centers.

When an alternate time has been assigned, the entrant will be notified of the new time, and if no refusal is received promptly, the entry fee will not be refunded.

14) DRESS CODE: At check-in all participants must wear the attire they plan to bowl in. Any changes to attire after check-in must be approved by the Tournament Management prior to the beginning of event. The dress code will be enforced by designated tournament staff members and they will make judgment calls relative to dress code questions or concerns at the time of check in. If any bowler is not in compliance, the bowler may be disqualified in said event.

All clothing must be neat, clean and in good condition and have no offensive materials displayed. Bowlers are required to wear: a collared or mock collared shirt, dress slacks, jeans (clean with no holes), Capri's, shorts/skorts/skirts/dress shorts/golf shorts (hem must sit at or below the bowler's fingertips with arms relaxed at their sides) bowling apparel, leggings, or team T-Shirts are permitted. Prohibited items are but not limited to: sweatpants, tank tops, halter tops, bare midriffs, basketball shorts, and hats. Headgear permitted if medically approved. **PERFUME, AFTERSHAVE AND SCENTED BODY CARE PRODUCTS:** Please refrain from using these products. Due to the close confines when bowling, people with respiratory problems and allergies may be affected. Final determination will rest with Tournament Manager

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15) NOT PERMITTED IN THE PLAYING AREA: Refreshments and electronic devices of any type will not be permitted in the settee area during tournament play. Cell phones are to be turned off or placed in vibration mode.

16)DISCLAIMER: The entrants whose names appear on the entry form or their authorized replacements hereby agree that the Maine State USBC Association, its' officers and agents shall be liable only to the extent of returning entry fees if and when these entrants shall be prevented from bowling any event in the tournament through premature termination of the tournament due to causes beyond the control of the Maine State USBC.

17)RULES: This tournament is governed by the above rules and the USBC Rule Book.

18)ENTRY CLOSING DATE: Midnight ~ February 28, 2026

19)TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT:

Tournament Manager: Mark Fortier
40 Wood Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
manager@msusbc-maine.com
(207) 232-8491

Association Manager: Mark Fortier
(207) 232-8491 manager@msusbc-maine.com

Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

*We look forward to seeing you at the
MSUSBC Open Tournament*

