2026-27 Maine Youth Scratch Championships

League and State Rules

1. This tournament is certified by the United States Bowling Congress (#5603) and shall be governed by USBC rules.

2. Competition is open to all 2026-2027 USBC Youth members. To compete, a bowler must be a regular member of a certified USBC league and not be under suspension at the time of qualifying. League substitutes are allowed to participate if it is their only USBC Youth league. USBC Collegiate members are eligible if they are 2026-2027 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 2026-2027 certified leagues are automatic league level qualifying sites.

4. League level qualifying dates are December 1 -14, 2026 and February 1 – 14, 2027. Qualifying scores must be bowled during regularly scheduled league matches during the above dates. Advancement from league is a one-time entry. If an individual qualified and cannot participate in this competition, replacements will be eligible based on order of finish in previous competition.

*****Replacement must advance from the same league and window based on order of finish*****
Pre-bowled or post-bowled scores may not be used as scores for qualification and or advancement purposes

5. Advancement ratio from the league level competition to the state competition is at least one (1) for every four (4) entries per division, per league, or major fraction thereof, including last place ties. The base number for each division is the number of the league members that would have participated in that division. In all cases, at least one person per division shall advance. The advancement ratio shall be applied uniformly to all eligible divisions.
    a. In the event a bowler qualifies from 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, the bowler must select one division they will compete in before subsequent competition.

****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.

6. Advancers out of the league level must remain in the division they qualified in during all subsequent levels. If a bowler advances out of league level in more than one state/zone, the bowler must declare one state/zone to continue competing before the next competition level. Participation in any level of competition past the league level in more than one state/zone will result in automatic disqualification.

7. Competition will take place at:

Interstate Bowling Center – Hallowell, Maine

CHECK IN TIMES

- **All Groups** **9:00 a.m. on May 2, 2026** **Bowling starts at 9:30 a.m.**

8. Entry closing date is April 17, 2027. Tournament entry forms containing qualifier's name, bowler id, and date of birth must be submitted by this date to the tournament manager.
9. The 2026-27 Tournament Manager is Mark Fortier and his contact information is listed below:

Mark Fortier
40 Wood Street

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Lewiston, ME 04240
207-232-8491
manager@msusbc-maine.com

10. Divisions are based on the participant's date of birth. Competition shall be conducted in the following twelve (12) divisions:

U8 Boys Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2018 or later - U8 Girls
U10 Boys - Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2016 thru 7/31/2018 - U10 Girls
U12 Boys - Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2014 thru 7/31/2016 - U12 Girls
U14 Boys - Bowlers whose birthday is 8/1/2012 thru 7/31/2014 – U14 Girls
U16 Boys - Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2010 thru 7/31/2012 - U16 Girls
U18 Boys - Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2008 thru 7/31/2010 - U18 Girls

11. The tournament format shall be: Winner shall be decided by **TOTAL**

12. **PINFALL**.
    - U8/U10 Boys & Girls shall bowl 3 games on the same pair of lanes. Awards given after ALL scores are tallied and checked for ties.
    - U12 Boys & Girls shall bowl 4 games, changing lanes after each game. Awards will be given after ALL scores are tallied and checked for ties.
    - U14/U16/U18 Boys & Girls shall bowl 5 games, changing lanes after each game. Awards will be given after ALL scores are tallied and checked for ties.

13. State level entry fee breakdown is:

	U8/U10	U12	U14/U16/U18
Lineage	$ 12.00	$16.00	$20.00
Expenses	$ 0.25	$ 0.25	$ 0.25
Awards	$ 2.50	$ 2.50	$ 2.50
Scholarships	$ 5.25	$6.25	$7.25
TOTAL	$20.00	$25.00	$30.00

Awards and Scholarship fees shall be returned 100% to the bowlers.

Scholarships will be held in MSUSBC's SMART account number: 8558

Contact person: Phone number: 1-800-514-2695 ext. 8968
*** USBC Rule 309 states that all scholarships must be deposited in the SMART Program or comply with strict guidelines for maintenance.**

14. Participant Uniform - Tournament management will determine if the uniform worn by the participant is acceptable. If the uniform is deemed unacceptable, the participant will be required to immediately change the uniform. If the participant is unable to change into a compliant uniform, they will be removed from the competition for that day. Shirts Competitors shall provide their own bowling shirt with a collared, V-neck, rib-lined or banded neckline. Mock collars must be a minimum of three-quarters of one inch. All shirts must have finished sleeves for all competition. Females may wear a sleeveless shirt with a butterfly collar only if the sleeves are finished. It is recommended that participants have their names on their shirts, but it is not required. If the participant has chosen to have a name on the back, it is recommended that the participant wears their last names (first and last name is recommended) in lettering a minimum of one-inch high, with a maximum height of three inches,

on the back of shirts during all tournament play. Hand-printed lettering is not permitted. Lettering should be in contrasting color to backing (light on dark, or dark on light material) so it can be easily read from a distance. Updated 01/21/2025 Pants Male participants are required to wear slacks. Slacks must not contain drawstring waists or elastic bottoms. Slacks must have a zipper and a button to be eligible. Jeans are not permitted. Female participants are required to wear slacks, skirts, capris, skorts or walking shorts. All skirts, capris, skorts or walking shorts must be below the competitor's fingertips when they are standing with their arms hanging loosely at their side. Jeans and yoga pants are not permitted. Headgear No covering or sunglasses can be worn while practicing or competing (hats, caps or bandanas, etc.). Male participants cannot wear any headgear while practicing or competing, unless a request is made in writing and approved prior to the event for medical or religious reasons only.

There will be no alcoholic beverages permitted on the concourse while competition is in progress.

15. No substitutes will be permitted once athletes have started tournament play; however, replacements may be used for bowlers not present 15 minutes prior to squad time as stated in Rule #2.
    a. **Replacements must be from order of finish from prior level of competition. (i.e. the same window, same league and same center as the "no show" bowler if replacement is from the league level. They must follow the order of advancement within that window/league.)**
    b. Once replaced the original bowler cannot regain their spot in the tournament.

16. Competitors will be allowed practice at the tournament manager's discretion.

17. 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 will be scored with a zero (0). **Frames may not be made-up.** Bowlers not present to bowl when it's their turn will be scored with a zero for that frame.

18. Only bowlers and tournament officials shall be permitted in the settee area.

19. In the event that a qualifier needs to be replaced and there is a tie to determine who will advance to the Junior Gold Championships, the high game from the qualifying scores will determine who will advance. If the high score for each is the same, next subsequent high score will be used until the tie is broken.
20.
21. Claims for errors in scoring or general playing rules must be made to the tournament manager no later than the start of the next block or 30 minutes after the completion of competition. The tournament manager shall decide upon questionable errors. All other protests must be confirmed in writing to the tournament manager within 72 hours or before the awards are presented. Under this rule, each protest must be specific in itself.

22. Symbolic awards shall be awarded on at least 1-10 ratio of participation in each division. At a minimum, the 1st and 2nd place in each division will receive an award. If sponsorship is available, additional funds will be disbursed to scholarship.
    a. Symbolic awards will be given in divisions with three (3) or more bowlers in the division.
    b. In the case of divisions with less than three (3) bowlers, symbolic awards will only be presented to first place.

23. Scholarships will be awarded as follows:

    State Scholarship
    - Based on participation,1st and 2nd place in each division will evenly split the state scholarship money gathered for their division
    - 1st place in each division will split the national scholarship money based on a percentage of the

number of bowlers per division

24. The top bowler in the U12/U14/U16/U18 Boys' and Girls' Divisions at the state competition with the highest score, will earn a berth to the Junior Gold Championships in the Summer. There is no requirement to have a minimum average or be a USBC Junior Gold Member to enter the local level of qualifying for the Junior Gold Championships. However, to receive the berth, the bowler must be a USBC Junior Gold member or obtain membership prior to the Junior Gold championships.

    *****If the winner is not eligible for the championships, they will still retain all awards from the State/zone, but the next eligible bowler will receive the berth to the Junior Gold Championships.*****

25. 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. In the event that a qualifier needs to be replaced and there is a tie to determine who will advance to the Junior Gold Championships, the high game from the qualifying scores will determine the who will advance. If the high score for each subsequent high score will be used until the tie is broken.

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

27. The USBC 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.