

2025-26 Maine Youth Scratch Championships

League and State Rules



1. This tournament is certified by the United States Bowling Congress (#) and shall be governed by USBC rules.
2. Competition is open to all 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 certified leagues are automatic league level qualifying sites.
4. League level qualifying dates are December 1 -14, 2025 and February 1 – 14, 2026. 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:

Central Maine Family Fun, Skowhegan Maine

CHECK IN TIMES

➤ **All Groups** **9:30 a.m. on March 29, 2026** **Bowling starts at 10:00 a.m.**

8. Entry closing date is March 14, 2026. 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 2025-26 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 8/1/2017 or later - U8 Girls
- U10 Boys - Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2015 thru 7/31/2017 - U10 Girls
- U12 Boys - Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2013 thru 7/31/2015 - U12 Girls
- U14 Boys - Bowlers whose birthday is 8/1/2011 thru 7/31/2013 - U14 Girls
- U16 Boys - Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2009 thru 7/31/2011 - U16 Girls
- U18 Boys - Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2007 thru 7/31/2009 - 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:

	<u>U8/U10</u>	<u>U12</u>	<u>U15/U18</u>
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. All bowlers must wear suitable attire. **No hats/caps allowed. Bowlers must wear a collared shirt or league sponsored Tee shirt. Bowlers MAY NOT WEAR shirts not covering midriff, pants with holes in them, sweatpants, skintight or spandex clothing. State of Maine COVID-19 guidance and/or bowling center requirements for face coverings must be followed.**

*****Shorts are permitted, but must be past the fingertips with arms at the side*****

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Bowlers deemed in violation will not be allowed to compete until corrected. *Final determination will rest with the tournament manager.* 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/U15/U18 Boys’ and Girls’ Divisions at the state competition with the highest score, will earn a berth to the Junior Gold Championships July 12-20, 2024 in Detroit, Michigan 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.

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*****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.
26. Failure to abide by any rules and regulations will lead to disqualification from this event. The USBC Pepsi Youth Championships National Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any participant.
27. The USBC Pepsi Youth Championships National Tournament Committee will decide all matters not covered by these rules and regulations or USBC rules and regulations. All decisions are final.