



MSUSBC 2026-27 Seniors Tournament Rules

1) ELIGIBILITY: All entrants in the Maine State USBC Senior Tournament must be members in good standing with their Local Maine USBC Association, Maine State USBC, and USBC. No one may bowl in this tournament except those originally entered or such replacements as may be authorized by the Tournament Manager.

- **Proof of age:** Entry into this tournament is for all MSUSBC senior members aged 50 and over. Entrants must have an average from a USBC certified league, based on a minimum of 21 games (see rule 9). Bowlers age will be verified via WinLabs based on age as of JULY 1, 2027.

- Professional bowlers may not participate in this tournament.

2) 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 play. The dress code will be enforced by tournament staff members. Dress code questions or concerns at the time of check-in can be addressed to the Tournament Manager. If any bowler is not in compliance after check-in, the bowler may be disqualified in said event with no tournament refund. All clothing must be neat, clean and in good condition. Bowlers are required to wear: a collared or mock collared shirt, bowling apparel, or team t-shirts. No offensive material on any clothing items. Capri's, dress slacks, jeans (clean with no holes) shorts (dress, golf, jeans (no cut-off)), skirts or skorts (hem line for shorts, skirts or skorts must sit at or below the bowler's fingertips with arms relaxed at the sides). Headgear permitted if medically necessary. Prohibited items are but not limited to; bare midriffs, halter tops, tank tops, basketball shorts, sweatpants, leggings and hats/bandanas. Scented products like: Aftershave, perfume, scented body care products. Please refrain from using these products due to the close confines when bowling, people with respiratory problems, and allergies. Final determination will rest with the Tournament Manager.

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 the tournament management.

4) NOT PERMITTED IN THE BOWLING 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.

5) DISCLAIMER: The entrants whose names appear on the entry form of 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.

6) INJURIES, SUBSTITUTIONS: 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 at lea. Substitutions may be reported to the Tournament Manager at least one hour before scheduled squad time except in cases of emergency.

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

9) AVERAGES: Entrants must use their composite USBC average from the prior season with a minimum of 21 games. USBC rule 319a applies. • Bowlers with no prior season average will use the highest current season average of 21 games or more, as of the entry closing date of the tournament. Average verification from League Secretary must accompany entry form. The bowler is responsible to verify the accuracy of his/her average. Entrants who do not have a minimum of 21 games average will 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 the tournament manager 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 bowler's 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 score only if the submitted average is lower than the actual USBC average. Prize winnings will be based on the submitted average if higher.

10) DIVISIONS: The tournament will consist of two divisions; Open and Women's. Female participants must make a choice on the entry form indicated if they are bowling in the Open or Women's division.

- **Classifications:** In each division for the open and women's there will be six age classifications as of July 1, 2027:

Super Seniors 75 and up

Class A 70-74

Class B 65-69

Class C 60-64

Class D 55-59

Class E 50-54.



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

12) GAME PLAY: Bowlers will bowl six (6) games in two (2) sets of (3) games. The choices of sets can be bowled the same day or over two (2) days. Bowlers may only enter once. No more than four (4) bowlers will be scheduled on a lane. No re-entries.

13) SCHEDULING: All entrants must select a first (1st) choice and a second (2nd) choice for each three (3) game set. If entries are received by the deadline (not postmarked by) bowlers traveling the greatest distance will be given priority. All other entries will be scheduled as received. 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. Lanes may be assigned or drawn by the tournament manager(s) before the start of the tournament.

14) PRIZES: This is a handicap tournament. All prize fees will be returned at 100% in each age classification and in each division. Ratio of the prizes will be at least 1:10, or major portion thereof, in each classification and in each division.

- There must be a minimum of two (2) participants in each class. In the event there is only one (1) participant in any class, that participant will be moved up into the next highest class. *EXAMPLE:* If there is only one (1) participant in Class E for the Women's or Open division, that participant will be moved up to Class D.

Ties: in the case of a tie for the championship, the highest single game with handicap, of those in the competition, will be used to break the tie. If a tie still exists, the second highest game with handicap will be used etc.

CLASS WINNERS: If funds are available, all class winners will have half of his/her entry fee paid to the USBC Seniors Championship by MSUSBC Association and \$100.00 towards travel expenses.

Each class must have a minimum of five (5) entries to qualify.

If funds are not available for all class winner entries, the entry for the overall winners in the Open and Women's divisions will be paid and \$100.00 towards travel expenses.

CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS WINNERS: If the first (1st) place winner is unable to attend the USBC Seniors Championship, the second (2nd) place winner will be eligible to attend with the same entitled award funded by MSUSBC. If neither the first (1st) or second (2nd) place winners are able to attend, any other participant in that class may choose to attend. MSUSBC will pay for the jersey, but the participant will be responsible for paying the entry fee and all travel expenses.

15) REPORTING PRIOR PRIZE WINNINGS: All entrants who have qualified for a prize of \$600 or more in any event of any tournament within the previous 12 month period,

must report their actual score, position and amount won at the time of entry here. The entrant will be subject to rerating. USBC Rules 319a, 319c, 319d, 319e apply except 319a/2 which states if this year's average is 10 pins higher you must use it.

16) RULES: The tournament is governed by the above rules and the USBC Rule Book.

17) ENTRY CLOSING DATE: Midnight, October 26, 2026

18) ENTRY FEES: Shall be paid by check or money order made payable to MSUSBC, postmarked not later than the entry closing date (see rule 17). 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 phone, prior to the start of the tournament. The bowler will not be scheduled to bowl, until a \$35 processing fee and the entry fee are paid with a money order or cashier's check. Returned checks will not be re-deposited. No fees will be refunded after entries have been received, except as noted in rules 5. **All late entries will be returned.**

19) TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT:

Tournament Manager:

Mailing address:

Email:

Phone:

Association Manager: Mark Fortier

Email: manager@msusbc-maine.com

Thank you for allowing us to serve you. We look forward to seeing you at the MSUSBC Senior Tournament!