

Mt. Lebanon Junior Bowlers **2025-2026 Youth League Rules**

The Mt. Lebanon Junior Bowlers (The League) will bowl on Saturdays at 10:00 am at AMF Mt. Lebanon, 1601 Washington Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15228. The league will have a sign up day on September 27, 2025 to enroll new members as well as establish entering averages. Establishing averages will be done over multiple weeks. The league will have a scheduled starting date of October 4, 2025 and a scheduled ending date of April 25, 2026, with playoffs on May 2, 2026 and the end of year awards banquet on May 17, 2026. The league will not bowl on select holiday dates as well as any additional dates as determined by AMF due to previously scheduled events/tournaments. Please see the attached list of Special Event Dates.

The schedule will be divided into halves, with the first half ending on January 17, 2026. Team rosters are subject to change in the second half.

The League will be managed by League Supervisors in coordination with a designated representative of AMF Mt. Lebanon. The current League Supervisors are as follows:

Mike Shawley	412-965-8739	axeldemolition@gmail.com
Janelle Hayes	304-670-1856	mtlebanonjrbowlers@gmail.com

The League members may elect league officers as outlined in the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) playing rules for the current playing year(s).

The League Supervisors adopt the following rules:

The League

The League will be certified through the United States Bowling Congress (USBC). USBC Membership will be required for all youth league members. Youth membership fees must be paid before completion of the bowler's third session of competition. The USBC Membership fee required to participate in the league is \$4. Membership upgrades are available for an additional fee. Please refer to Bowl.com for upgrade information.

Each league member will pay \$17 at each league session; \$11.50 will cover the cost of bowling, and \$5.50 will be the league fee. The League fee will consist of \$5.00 for the award fund and \$0.50 for expenses. All funds will be placed in the league's account. All league members must pay their bowling fees on time to remain in the league. Members who are more than 2 weeks behind will NOT be allowed to bowl until all bowling fees are paid. The Award fund will be returned to the bowlers 100% in the form of (scholarships/awards/patches/banquet/etc.). Membership in the league is open to males and females from age 5 to age 17 as of August 1 of the current bowling season. Anyone under suspension by a responsible league supervisor and/or USBC is ineligible to participate in the league. Age divisions will be used for tournaments only, where necessary. League teams will not be determined by age.

Members who do not complete the entire half of any bowling season are still responsible for the entirety of the half season's league fee. Any unpaid league fees will be deducted from any awards they may have earned in their partial season.

Code of Conduct

Members will act in a manner that promotes the best interest of youth bowling. Members found acting in a derogatory manner will be subject to the following:

- A. First offense will result in a verbal warning,
- B. Second offense will result in an official warning and a 0 for the next/current frame. An additional offense will result in a zero for the game.

Derogatory conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- A. Using tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages.
- B. Using foul language or gestures.
- C. Wearing clothing depicting foul language or gestures.
- E. Encouraging gutter balls or deliberate poor performance of fellow members.

Parents who violate this Code of Conduct may have disciplinary actions applied to their youth member(s).

Continued violation of the Code of Conduct may result in removal from the current competition/function and/or suspension from league and/or USBC membership, as per the USBC Youth conduct rule 17d.

Competition

Bowlers will establish their league average during the signup day, plus two additional weeks. A bowler using a two-hand delivery will establish an average with two hands. When the bowler changes to a one-hand delivery, they must establish an average using that hand. Bowlers new to the league will use their pre-established USBC average, if available.

Teams will have a playing strength of up to 4. The minimum legal lineup of 1 player(s) must be present before the completion of the first frame of each game.

The league will determine wins and losses on a handicap basis. Handicap will be 100% of the difference between the teams averages.

Absentee and vacancy scores will be allowed when a team has a legal lineup, but less than a full lineup at the start of any game in a series. The absentee score will be the absent member's average. Handicap will be figured on the average of absent members. Absentee members are still required to pay the league fee of \$5.50 for the missed session. Any unpaid award fees will be deducted from any awards they may have earned during the season.

Members may bowl in advance (roll-off/pre-bowl) for a session they know they will be absent. Members who pre-bowl are still required to pay the lineage plus league fees (\$17) for that session.

Teams having an incomplete roster (vacancy on the team) will receive a vacancy score. The vacancy score will be determined once team averages are determined.

All league games must be bowled as scheduled except when they are postponed or canceled by authorization of a league supervisor or designated AMF Representative.

The league supervisor must grant a postponement when a team is unable to field a legal lineup due to reasons beyond its control.

Team and individual unopposed bowling is allowed and scores are recognized for league awards.

A bowler who arrives late may enter the game provided 3 frames have not been completed. In this situation frames missed may be made up.

Team position standings shall be determined on a point basis, with 2 point(s) awarded for each game won and 1 point(s) awarded for the highest total pins in each match. If all teams in the league have not bowled an equal amount of games, position standings are figured using a percentage basis.

When bowling in a known forfeit situation or scheduled against a non-existent team, the team must bowl at least the team average less 10 percent per player to earn the points.

A league member may not finish any game of a series before his/ her teammates or opponents, except in cases of an emergency or being prearranged based on a good cause. The league supervisor will make the determination. Such scores will count in deciding the game and bowler's average, and for qualifying for USBC Youth awards and league awards.

A playoff will be conducted when there is a tie for first place. Scores bowled in a playoff shall not count toward individual or team averages or special prizes offered by the league.

Bowlopolis

Bowlopolis is a USBC program designed with little bowlers in mind. Members will learn the game of bowling and how to bowl with bumpers. Members will bowl 3 games each week but will not compete in team competitions. They will be eligible for achievement awards.

Awards

The league supervisors will adopt an awards list within the first five weeks of league play. All league awards will be awarded on a scratch basis, unless otherwise noted.

A member is eligible to receive only one individual league recognition award, provided they have been a league member for at least 1 full half, and bowled two-thirds of the halves scheduled games. All members are eligible for team recognition rewards and League MVP. Only members that have bowled for less than 1 year are eligible for Rookie of the Year.

Individual awards will be awarded for the first achievement and dated as such.

At the end of each half, a first place winning team will be named and the wins and losses will start over; however, the averages for all bowlers will continue.

The first place winners of each half will bowl in a playoff to decide the league champion.

For playoffs, points are awarded 2 points for each game won. There will be no points for total pins.

If the same team wins both halves, it shall be named the champion. If/When recognitions are awarded for second place, the two second place teams will bowl a playoff to decide the runner-up position.

League Pals

The league records will be managed by AMF Mt. Lebanon via League Pals. This system is available to all participants for review. League Pals is available online as well as in the App Store. More information will be distributed as it becomes available.

SMART Accounts

The Scholarship Management and Account Reporting for Tenpins, (SMART) program began as a service offering the bowling community a centralized location to manage bowling scholarship funds as well as providing USBC members with a resource for inquiries about bowling scholarships. SMART oversees bowling organizations' scholarship funds for individuals who have earned scholarships. League scholarships/awards will be added to each member's SMART account. Access your SMART account online at <https://bowl.com/youth/smart>.

Tournament Participation

Tournament participation is completely OPTIONAL. Tournament information will be given (written or verbal) to all members during weekly announcements. Members may sign up for tournaments independently or, **as a courtesy**, a league representative may enroll league members as a group, based on the tournament. If a member chooses to participate in a tournament that was NOT specifically recommended by the league, the member acknowledges that youth bowlers must comply with Rule 400 of the USBC Playing Rules for the current year.

Youth Membership Eligibility - Rule 400

USBC Youth membership is available to individuals who have not reached their 18th birthday prior to August 1 of the current bowling season and have maintained compliance with Item a below. Individuals who purchase Youth membership in a summer league and turn 18 prior to August 1 will be allowed to complete the summer league.

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 youth and parent/legal guardian sign the Consent Form (See BOWL.com/Rules)
2. The competition agrees to award the youth's prize in the form of a scholarship; or
3. The youth waives his/her right 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. 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: USBC has no limits on:

1. Scholarship amounts
2. Entry fees (must be paid directly to the tournament director/manager)
3. Reimbursements of actual travel expenses into the next higher level of competition or any tournament or event (receipts must be provided upon request)
4. Prizes authorized by a grade/state high school athletic association or a collegiate athletic association recognized by USBC and USBC Collegiate. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete participating in high school sports to know what prizes/awards could violate amateur status rules established by their high school athletic association. 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

Additional Rules

Any additional rules not described herein, shall be determined as outlined in the USBC Playing Rules. USBC Playing Rules are available on Bowl.com