

2025-2026 OPEN CLASSIC TOURNAMENT

Rules and Regulations

1. This is a St. Joseph MO USBC Sanctioned Singles, Handicap-based Event.
2. All entry fees must accompany the entry blank. Entries turned in without the entry fee and incomplete entries will be returned.
3. **The ten-pin rule is in effect for this tournament.**
4. **USBC Rule 319c does apply.**
5. **USBC Rule 327b.** After a score has been recorded, it cannot be changed except if there is an obvious error in scoring or calculation. Obvious errors must be corrected by a tournament official immediately upon discovery. Tournament management shall decide questionable errors. All protests must be in writing to tournament management before completion of the current event, otherwise scores will be correct as entered.
6. Individuals failing to appear at their scheduled time to bowl may start in their regular turn, coinciding with the rest of the squad, at the discretion of the Tournament Management. Those who do not show up, forfeit their place and entry fees.
7. **All bowlers must check in 1/2 hour before their squad time and present their USBC card.** Squads may start ahead of schedule if all bowlers are present.
8. Any entrant appearing at his/her scheduled bowling that appears to be under the influence of intoxicating liquors or any entrant who willfully delays the normal progress of the game, an entrant whose conduct or attire on the lanes is considered objectionable to tournament management, may be removed from the lanes and tournament, regardless of whether a qualified substitute is available or not.
9. In the event of mechanical failure, it is hereby agreed that the bowlers affected shall be moved to the next available lanes in the establishment at the discretion of the Tournament Management.
10. **USBC Rule 11:** – Forfeit - Delay of Game. No unreasonable delay in the progress of any game is permitted. If a player or team in a league or tournament refuses to proceed with a game after being directed to do so by a league or tournament official, the game or series shall be declared forfeited.
11. **USBC Rule 12:** The application of any foreign substance on any part of the approach that detracts from the possibility of other players having normal conditions is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, such substances as talcum powder. Pumice and resin on shoes; also, soft rubber soles or heels that rub off on the approach.
12. **USBC Rule 18:** Altering the surface of the bowling ball by using any foreign substance while bowling is prohibited. All bowling balls altered must be removed from the competition. No foreign substances is allowed in the bowling area. **DRY TOWELS ONLY.**
13. Each individual bowler is held responsible for rule violations and is subject to USBC rules and regulations governing Tournament Competition.
14. The Tournament Management reserves the right to check any bowling ball used in the tournament.
15. Tournament management reserves the right to make any changes to the tournament up to the start of the tournament.
16. Prize fund to be paid within 30 days of the conclusion of the tournament. Checks are void after 90 days.

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Tournament Specific Rules and Format

1. This tournament shall be open to all qualifying members of the St. Joseph USBC holding a current USBC Adult card who did not qualify for the 2025-2026 Marvin Bally Open Masters Invitational. **If you turned down the opportunity to bowl in the Masters, you are not eligible to bowl in the Open Classic.**
2. Entry fee is \$65.00 per bowler. The prize fund will be paid using a 1:6 ratio.
3. The tournament handicap will be 80% of 220. Maximum of 60 pins handicap per game.
4. Bowlers will use their highest 2024-25 verifiable St. Joseph USBC Association book average of 21 games or more. If no 2024-25 average, your highest 2025-26 average of 21 games from a sanctioned league in the St. Joseph USBC Association as of the tournament deadline will be used. **Bowlers must provide the correct average by submitting a current league standing sheet as of March 20, 2026.**
5. The dress code is neat and clean pants/shorts and shirt combination, no hats. Any clothing with foul language or obscene wording and/or pictures is not permitted. No frayed pants or tank tops. **Sunday dress code is dress slacks and shirt with collar, no hats. Bowling Jerseys are acceptable.**
6. Entries close on Monday, March 16, 2026 (**NOTE: if mailed, must be post-marked by Friday, March 13, 2026**). **No walk-ins are allowed in this tournament.**
7. A bowler may not practice on tournament lanes prior to start time but will be allowed 10 minutes of practice.
8. All bowlers will bowl 6 games of qualifying on Saturday, moving one pair to the right after each game.
9. After 6 games of qualifying on Saturday, the field will be cut to the top 24 to return on Sunday for match play. The last 3 games, including handicap, will determine any tiebreakers in the top 24.
10. The match play will consist of 4 groups of 6 bowlers, with those groups divided based on qualifying results. **Qualifying scores will not be carried over.**
11. Once you are placed in your group, you will bowl 5 games, bowling everyone in your group at least once. The 6th game in match play will serve as a position round after 5 games (EX. 1 vs. 2, 3 vs. 4, etc.)
12. **In all 6 games of match play, you receive 30 bonus pins for every win against your opponent, or 15 pins for a tie.**
13. After 6 games of match play, the 4 winners of each group will bowl in a stepladder format with the seeding determined based on the total of your scores, plus bonus pins received in match play. The 5th seed of the stepladder will be the highest score, plus bonus pins, of the remaining 20 bowlers.
14. Any ties to determine the top 5, a 9th and 10th frame roll-off will take place.