



2025-2026 North Carolina USBC Youth Scratch Championships Presented by SMART - SECTIONAL Rules

1. This tournament is certified by the United States Bowling Congress and governed by USBC rules. This competition is open to all 2025-2026 USBC youth members. A bowler must be a regular member of a certified USBC youth league and not 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.
2. One time entry. If an individual who qualified cannot participate in this competition, a replacement will be eligible based on the order of finish in the previous competition (same league, same window and same center as the "no show" bowler). They must follow the order of advancement within that league/window.
3. Advancement ratio from the league competition to the sectional competition is one (1) for every (4) entries, per certified league, including last place ties. The base number for each division is based on the number of league members that were present at least one week to participate. Qualifying scores must be bowled during regularly scheduled league play. Pre-bowl and post-bowl scores cannot be used for advancement purposes. If a bowler qualifies in more than one league in the same division, the bowler must advance through the league in which the highest score was bowled. In all cases, at least one person per division shall advance. The advancement ratio shall be applied uniformly to all divisions.
4. Advancers out of the league level must remain in the division they qualified in during all subsequent levels. If a bowler advances out of the 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.
5. **LEAGUE LEVEL QUALIFYING WINDOWS WILL BE OCTOBER 12 – OCTOBER 25 AND JANUARY 11 - JANUARY 24.** In the event of Covid-19 or weather scheduling complications, league directors and coaches may declare any two weeks prior to a deadline date as the qualifying window for that league. Please advise when mailing or entering information of a change. In these cases of inclement weather or extenuating circumstances such as league cancellation, please use the next available week. **Mailing Deadline: January 1, 2026 for Fall Qualifying and February 16, 2026 for Winter Qualifying.** The League Participants worksheet, Official State Entry Form and Entry fees must be postmarked and submitted to the Tournament Director postmarked on or before January 1 for the Fall qualifier and postmarked on or by February 16 for the Winter qualifier. **No entries will be accepted beyond the final deadline date.** We know it is a busy time for bowling centers and leagues, but please respect these dates to allow us the opportunity to provide rosters to the host centers as soon as possible. The tournament director reserves the right to refuse any late entries.
6. Divisions are based on the participant's date of birth as listed below. Bowlers must declare at the time of their first qualifying window within each league in they choose to "PLAY UP" to a higher age division. All bowlers that choose to "PLAY UP" must complete an opt up waiver form PRIOR to competition. Participation in the wrong age division will lead to automatic disqualification. Bowlers must stay in the given division in that particular league throughout the entire window.

U8 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2017 or later	U8 Girls
U10 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2015 thru 7/31/17	U10 Girls
U12 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2013 thru 7/31/15	U12 Girls
U14 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2011 thru 7/31/13	U14 Girls
U16 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2009 thru 7/31/11	U16 Girls
U18 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2007 thru 7/31/09	U18 Girls

One way to think about this.....If a bowler turns 9,11,13,15 or 17 during the bowling season they will be in the next highest age division. There is no requirement of Junior Gold membership to enter the U12, U14, U16 or U18 divisions

7. **Entry fee for all divisions shall be \$20.00.** Certified funds should be made payable to "NC Pepsi Tournament". ONE CHECK per center please. Breakdown of fees: Boys & Girls U8 and U10 (\$7.50 Lineage, \$12.5 Prize/Awards). Boys' and Girls' U12, U15, and U18 divisions (\$10 Lineage, \$10 Prize/Awards). Awards and scholarships shall be returned 100% to bowlers. Scholarships will be managed through SMART, Account #8538.

8. Please pay special attention to this schedule, as there are major schedule changes from past years!

Sectional qualifying will take place on Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8. Squad times below:

U8 Boys	U10 Boys	U12 Boys	U14 Boys	U16 Boys	U18 Boys
Saturday 10:00am	Saturday 10:00am	Saturday 10:00am	Sunday 9:30am	Sunday 9:30am	Sunday 1:00pm
U8 Girls	U10 Girls	U12 Girls	U14 Girls	U16 Girls	U18 Girls
Saturday 10:00am	Saturday 10:00am	Saturday 10:00am	Sunday 9:30am	Sunday 1:00pm	Sunday 1:00pm

Athletes: You must bowl with your scheduled division!

Coaches, you are responsible for ensuring that your athletes know their squad times.

The times listed above are the times when scoring starts. Check in begins 1 hour before squad time.

Practice will begin 10 minutes before squad time.

- Youth participants cannot not wear apparel or use bowling equipment depicting alcohol, tobacco, gambling, an illegal substance or inappropriate wording/gestures during competition. Shirts must have finished sleeves and all clothing should be neat in appearance. Tube, tank or halter tops, and bare midriffs will not be allowed. Shorts and Skirts are allowed but must come to knee length. Head coverings (including hats) may not be worn during competition except for medical or religious purposes. The Tournament Director reserves the right to require a bowler to meet dress code requirements prior to beginning competition. There should be no flash photography during the competition.
- 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 #3. Once a replacement has been made, the original bowler cannot be placed back into the tournament.
- Bowling at all levels of the tournament will be SCRATCH within the bowler's age and gender divisions.
- Only bowlers and tournament officials shall be permitted in the settee area. Unsolicited coaching is not allowed--meaning NO coaches or parents in the bowling area during competition.
- Competitors shall be allowed 10 minutes of practice on their assigned lanes before competition. Practice games are not allowed in the host bowling center on the dates of competition. A bowler arriving late who has not been replaced shall begin play and their score shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled. Missed frames shall be credited with a zero. Frames may not be made up. A bowler not present when it is their turn will be credited with a zero for that frame unless excused for cause by a Tournament Official.
- All divisions will bowl 3 games. Total pinfall shall determine the qualifiers who advance to the state competition. Bowlers in the U8 and U10 divisions will not advance to the state level, but will receive scholarships and awards after results from the sectionals have been verified. Plaques will be awarded to the first place winner in the Boys' and Girls' U8 and U10 divisions. Scholarships will be based on the number of entries in the U8 and U10 Boys and Girls division on a 1 in 10 ratio. Unofficial results will not be available for review, announced or posted at the sectional competition. Official results of the sectional competition will be e-mailed to the coach, league secretary, after certifications, and scores have been verified by the Tournament Director. Inability to verify the bowler's certification or date of birth will result in disqualification.
- Claims for errors in scoring or general playing rules must be made to the Tournament Director no later than 30 minutes after the completion of the tournament. Questionable errors shall be decided upon by the Tournament Director. All other protested must be confirmed in writing to the Tournament Director within 72 hours or before the awards are presented. Under this rule, each protest must be specific in itself.
- One (1) for every five (5) entries, including last place ties in the U12, U14, U16 and U18 divisions will advance to the state finals. In all cases, at least two athletes in each division will advance. The advancement ratio will applied uniformly to all divisions.
- The state finals will be held on April 12, 2026 at Buffaloe Lanes North in Raleigh. The state finals will be conducted on a lane condition 5:1 or lower.
- All matters not covered by these rules and regulations shall be determined by the North Carolina Pepsi USBC Youth Championships Committee. The National Pepsi USBC Youth Championships Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any participant. In the event of an emergency, the tournament director exclusively reserves the right to modify the format and/or style of competition for the state finals prior to the start of state finals competition. This may include changes of dates, formats, or restrictions on spectators. All announcements regarding the event will be housed at www.ncbowls.com and www.ncpepsitournament.com

Mail all entries to: Chad Estes, PO Box 5235, Statesville NC 28687

Tournament Director: Chad Estes, cmestes87@gmail.com