



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 sectional center as the "no show" bowler). They must follow the order of advancement within that league/window.
3. The advancement ratio from the sectional competition to the state finals is one (1) for every five (5) entries per sectional, in the U12, U14, U16 and U18 divisions, including last place ties. In all cases, at least two athletes per division shall advance from each sectional. The advancement ratio shall be applied uniformly to all divisions advancing. No additional entry fee is required at the state finals.
4. Advancers out of the league level must remain in the division they qualified in all subsequent levels. Participation in any level of competition past the league level in more than one state/zone will result in automatic disqualification.
5. 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.
6. 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 midribs will not be allowed. Shorts and Skirts are allowed but must not be excessively short. The Tournament Director reserves the right to require a bowler to meet dress code requirements prior to beginning competition.
7. No substitutes will be permitted once athletes have started tournament play, however, replacements may be used for bowlers not present when announcements begin 3 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.
8. Bowling at all levels of the tournament will be SCRATCH within the bowler's age and gender divisions.
9. Only bowlers and tournament officials shall be permitted in the settee area. Unsolicited coaching is not allowed—again meaning NO coaches or parents in the bowling area during competition.
10. 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.
11. 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 may be credited with a zero for that frame unless excused for cause by a Tournament Official.
12. All divisions will bowl 6 games, with total pinfall determining the winners in each division. All games will be bowled consecutively on the same assigned pair. A tie for the championship will be broken by a one-game rolloff, followed by a 9th/10th frame roll-off in the event of further ties. (USBC Rule 326a)
13. 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. **Presentation of awards shall be at the conclusion of a division's competition on the day of the finals.**
14. Scholarships will be awarded on a minimum of one (1) in ten (10) ratio in each of the six divisions, with a minimum of 3 cash positions per division. The amount of the scholarships will be determined by the number of entries in that division. Scholarships will be managed by SMART Account #8538.
15. The first place winner of the Boys' & Girls' U12, U14, U16 and U18 divisions will advance to the 2026 Junior Gold Championships. They must be USBC Junior Gold members to advance or purchase a USBC Junior Gold membership prior to June 1, 2026. USBC

will waive the tournament entry for these athletes. These athletes will compete for additional scholarships available to all athletes at the championships, as well as other prizes and awards. All US citizens are vying for a spot on the USBC Junior Team USA to represent the United States in national and international competition. If the Scratch Division Champion is unwilling or unable to become an USBC Junior Gold member and will not advance to the Championships, the athlete will still retain the state awards, but the berth to the Junior Gold Championships will be awarded to the next eligible athlete. Eligible advancers 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 level.

16. 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.
 - a. In the event of pandemic related closures and restrictions, war, natural disaster or catastrophic event, 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, restrictions on spectators or event cancellation. All announcements regarding the event will be housed at www.ncbowls.com and www.ncpepsitournament.com
17. No smoking or alcoholic beverages will be allowed in the host bowling center before and during the competition. This rule applies to spectators and participants and those refusing to comply will be asked to leave.

Tournament Director

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Mail all entries to:

NC USBC Pepsi Tournament
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