

How Lafayette USBC Bowler of the Year Works

A guide for members of the Lafayette USBC. Last updated July 2026.

What Bowler of the Year is, in one paragraph

Every year, Lafayette USBC recognizes six Bowlers of the Year — one for each age-and-sex division. Winners are decided by adding up how well each qualifying bowler placed across six statistical categories over the full season, using data from every sanctioned league in Lafayette and from our four City Tournament events. The bowler with the highest **season rank-point total** in a division wins that division. Everything on the following pages explains how that number is put together and how you can qualify.

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1. Who is eligible

To be considered for Bowler of the Year, a bowler must have bowled **enough games in a single Lafayette USBC-sanctioned league** to represent a division. Games do **not** add up across leagues — you need one league that clears the bar on its own. There are two paths:

The standard path. Any league in which you bowled **66 or more games** qualifies you.

The short-season path. If you bowled a shorter-format league in which the most games possible was under 66, that league qualifies you if you bowled **at least 42 games** in it.

Each league is evaluated on its own. If two or more leagues clear their respective bar, the one with the **highest league average** becomes your representing league (and a 66+ league beats a 42–65 league of the same average). Leagues that don't clear the bar don't disqualify you — they simply don't contribute to your qualification or to Category 1.

Why two bars? Fairness. Someone who only bowls short-format leagues can still qualify (that's the 42-game path), but a short league's higher-than-average number can't be used to jump ahead of standard-league bowlers — a subtlety explained under Category 1 below.

Games alone are not enough — you also need to clear a division average minimum. Each division has two average minimums: one on the standard (66+) path and a **10-pin-higher** minimum on the short-season (42–65) path. The 10-pin gap is what stops short-format leagues (which tend to run a few pins higher) from being an easy way in. You need one league that clears **both** its games bar and its division's average minimum on the same path. The exact numbers by division are in the next section.

Example. Kim bowls 90 games in one league and nothing else. That single league clears the 66-game bar, so she qualifies through the standard path. Jordan bowls 48 games in one short-format league and nothing else — that league's schedule tops out under 66 games, so the 42-game bar applies and Jordan qualifies through the short-season path. Terry bowls 40 games in one league and 30 games in another. Neither league clears its own bar (the first needs 42 for a short-format path or 66 for standard; the second is short of both), so Terry does **not** qualify this season, even though the two league totals add to 70.

2. The six divisions

Every eligible bowler is placed in **exactly one** division based on sex and age as of the season start:

Code	Division	Sex	Age	Standard-path avg min (66+ games)	Short-season- path avg min (42–65 games)
M	Men	Male	Under 50	215	225
SM	Senior Men	Male	50–64	200	210
SSM	Super Senior Men	Male	65+	190	200
W	Women	Female	Under 50	175	185
SW	Senior Women	Female	50–64	160	170
SSW	Super Senior Women	Female	65+	150	160

Your **representing league** is the qualifying league (games + average bars both cleared) with the highest season-ending average — with a 66+ game league beating a 42–65 game league at the same average. That

league's average is what places you in a division, and it's the number that appears in Category 1 (Highest League Average).

You compete **only against bowlers in your own division**. A 68-year-old man is not compared to a 32-year-old man; he's compared to other Super Senior Men. This makes the divisions genuinely separate contests — one for each of the six brackets.

Placement is automatic and always into the **oldest** bracket you qualify for. A 52-year-old woman is a Senior Woman (SW), not a Woman (W). A 66-year-old man is a Super Senior Man (SSM), not a Senior Man (SM). You are never in two divisions at once.

Each year, **up to the top 20 qualifiers per division** are ranked. Exact counts vary year to year with participation; smaller divisions may include everyone who cleared the games gate.

3. The six scored categories

Every ranked bowler is scored across six categories. Each category produces a rank within the bowler's division; those ranks turn into points (Section 4), and the six per-category point totals are added together to produce the bowler's **season rank-point total**.

Category 1 — Highest League Average

What it measures: Your best per-league season-ending average.

How it's computed: From each of your leagues, we check whether it cleared its games bar (66 for standard-length, 42 for short-format) **and** cleared your division's average minimum on that path. From every league that cleared both, we take your season-ending average. The highest of those is your Category 1 number. A league that missed either bar is skipped for this category, even if you bowled a lot of games there.

Why the bar matters here. Under earlier versions of these calculations, a bowler could have their "best average" come from a very short-season league where 12–18 games could push a fluky-hot stretch into an inflated number. That was fixed. Your best average must now come from a league you'd actually be eligible to represent — no short-league cherry-picking allowed.

Example. Morgan has three leagues this season: a long-format league (90 games, 218 average) and two shorter leagues (36 games at a 226 average, 48 games at a 224 average). Because Morgan has at least one 66+ game league, the standard-path bar applies and the two shorter leagues are both under the 66-game bar. Morgan's Category 1 number is **218** — the long-format league — because that is Morgan's only league that clears the eligibility bar.

Category 2 — High League Series (scratch)

What it measures: Your single best 3-game scratch series across the entire season, from any of your leagues.

How it's computed: We take every 3-game series from every league you bowled in — with pre-bowls, no-tap sets, and other non-legitimate scores excluded (see Section 6) — and pick your one best number. Handicap doesn't apply here; it's a raw scratch total.

Example. Pat bowled a 762 series one week in January and a 738 the previous November. Pat's Category 2 number is **762**.

Category 3 — Total League Points

What it measures: How much high-quality bowling you did across the whole season, weighted by tier.

How it's computed: Every qualifying game earns tier points from the Points Scale for **High Games**. Every qualifying series earns tier points from the Points Scale for **High Series**. On top of that, in each league where you bowled at least 21 games, your season-ending average in that league earns tier points from the **Highest League Average** tiers. **Every hit stacks**. They aren't a "best of" — bowl fifteen 250 games and you earn the 250-tier bonus fifteen times over.

Because it's cumulative, this category rewards **consistency across a full season**, not a single hot night.

The points come from the Points Scale workbook

(`BowlerOfTheYear/config/{season} BoY_points_scale.xlsx`). Values vary by division and are set at the start of each season. If you want to see the exact tiers — e.g. how many points a 260 game gets you as a Senior Man versus a Super Senior Woman — that spreadsheet has the answer. The engine reads it live, so if a tier ever changes the calculator picks it up automatically.

Example. Riley bowls four 780+ series (one in each league), stacks 12 games in the 250-tier, 6 games in the 260-tier, ends the season with a 218 average in their qualifying league and a 205 average in a short league. Each 780+ series earns Riley the tier points for that series band. Each 250 and 260 game earns its own points. The 218 average in the qualifying league earns Riley the tier points for that average band; the 205 average is also in a 21+ game league, so it earns the tier points for the 200-tier average band on top. All of it stacks into a single number.

Category 4 — Points Percentage

What it measures: How efficiently you earned your League Points — in other words, **how many games it took you to earn each rank point**.

How it's computed: `total league games bowled ÷ Total League Points from Category 3`. **Lower is better.** A bowler who earned 4,000 points in 90 games (ratio: 0.023) is more efficient than one who earned 4,000 points in 150 games (ratio: 0.038).

Why this category exists. Category 3 rewards bulk — the more you bowl, the more chances to earn tier bonuses. Category 4 corrects for that by asking, per game, how effective were you? A short-league specialist with fewer chances but more high-quality games will do well here.

Example. Two Super Senior Women bowl the same 3,200 total League Points. Alex bowled 72 games total; Sam bowled 108. Alex's Points Percentage is $72/3200 = 0.0225$. Sam's is $108/3200 = 0.0338$. Alex ranks higher in Category 4.

Category 5 — Tournament Points Earned

What it measures: How well you did across the four Lafayette City Tournaments.

How it's computed: Every tournament series and every tournament game you rolled earns tier points using the **same High Series and High Games tables** the League Points category uses (Section 3, Category 3). All tournament hits stack, then are summed into your Tournament Points total.

The four events that count are the **City Open Tournament** and the **Senior City Tournament**, each with a Men's and a Women's side.

Example. Terry rolled a 745 series in the City Open Team event and a 268 game in the Senior City Doubles event. Both roll up their tier points; the sum is Terry's Category 5 number.

Category 6 — Tournaments Won

What it measures: Big City Tournament wins in that season.

How it's computed: Each win earns the points assigned to that event in the Points Scale (`BowlerOfTheYear/config/{season} BoY_points scale.xlsx`). More prestigious events pay more points; the Points Scale is authoritative and reflects the current year's values. Some events pay in only certain divisions — for instance, some Handicap wins do not pay in a division that scores against Actuals — and those details also live in the Points Scale. Winning bowlers pick up the points for every event they won that year, summed together as their Category 6 number.

Example. In a strong year, Alex won City Open Doubles Actual with a partner (150) and made the Masters final (a Masters win pays 400 but Alex was runner-up, which does not pay). Alex's Category 6 number is 150.

4. How rank points work

Within each division and each category, bowlers are ranked. The rank turns into points using a simple formula:

$$\text{rank points} = (\text{qualifiers in the division}) - \text{rank} + 1$$

So if your division has **20 qualifiers** in Senior Men, the #1 bowler in a category earns **20 points**, #2 earns 19, #3 earns 18, and so on down to #20, who earns 1 point. **Ties share the tied rank and its points** — if two bowlers tie for 3rd in a category with 20 qualifiers, they both earn 18 points (the 3rd-place value); the next bowler is ranked 5th and earns 16.

Your **season rank-point total** is the sum of your rank points across all six categories.

Why this design? It prevents any single category from dominating. Coming first in one category is worth exactly the same in every category (equal to qualifier count), so being well-rounded — top-third in most categories — often beats being #1 in one and mid-pack in the rest. The 2025-26 Super Senior Men winner (Mike Cassidy, 113 points) illustrates this: he built his lead through consistent top rankings across multiple categories, not one dominant number.

5. The City Record bonus

If you **set a brand-new all-time #1 city record** during the season, in one of the four record categories for your sex — Men's High Series, Men's High Average, Women's High Series, Women's High Average — you earn a **375-point bonus**.

The bonus is not a separate rank category. It is **added to your Total League Points** (Category 3), which means it also propagates into your Points Percentage (Category 4). It affects your rank in those two categories only, and only indirectly — because both categories are then ranked from that new total.

Important detail: merely making the top-N record list is not enough. Your season performance must hold **rank 1** in a record category for your sex. In 2025-26, 14 bowlers made record lists as "New" entries but none set a new #1, so zero bonuses were awarded.

Records to beat as of 2025-26:

- **Men's High Series:** 878 by Jimmy Ogden Jr.
- **Men's High Average:** 241 (Rayman / Ogden co-holders)
- **Women's High Series:** 817 by Katrina Sharpe
- **Women's High Average:** 223 by Katrina Sharpe

6. Which scores count and which don't

Not every game bowled in a league is scored the same way for BoY purposes. Certain rows are excluded from High Games and High Series counts because they don't represent actual competitive rolls:

Flag on the row	Meaning	Excluded from High Games / Series	Also affects average?
a	Absent (no bowler present)	Yes	Doesn't count either way
i	Injury forfeit	Yes	Doesn't count either way
v	Vacancy (empty spot)	Yes	Doesn't count either way
b	Blind score (opponent absent, team gets a placeholder)	Yes	Doesn't count either way
p / P	Pre-bowl (bowled the game a different day)	Yes	Also excluded from the ending average
n / N	No-tap tournament game (nine-count counts as a strike)	Yes	Doesn't count either way

Everything else — every real, in-competition game — is fair game for tier points and averages. Pre-bowls are a slightly unusual case: they still show up on the score sheet and count for your team's weekly score, but for personal

recognition purposes (BoY, high game, high series, City Records) they are always excluded because they weren't rolled in that week's live competition.

7. How ties are broken

Every category is scored on a strict numeric ranking. Genuine ties (two bowlers with identical Category 3 totals, for instance) both earn that rank's points and share the rank — nobody gets bumped down.

Where ties in the season rank-point total happen. Two bowlers finishing the season with the same total is uncommon but real. **Tie-break rule: alphabetical by last name, then first name.** This is a deterministic default — it is not intended to be the "right" answer in every case. The **BoY Committee reviews any close finish** and may recommend a different resolution to the Board.

Who decides in a close call. Final call goes to the **Lafayette USBC Board**, based on the Committee's recommendation. This is not automatic — the Board can accept the numeric result, ask the Committee for more context, or apply reasonable judgment on the facts.

8. Timeline and updates

- **Season data collection:** Ongoing. Every league week's PDF scoresheet is pulled into the master data (TBD)
- **City Tournaments:** Consolidated at the end of tournament season.
- **Final calculations:** Run once fully after all fall-and-spring seasons are complete.
- **Documentation:** This document is refreshed **once per year** in the fall, after all seasonal data is finalized.

Between updates, the code and Points Scale workbook are the live source of truth. If a rule needs to change mid-season, the Board approves the change and the code and Points Scale are updated together.

9. Questions and appeals

If you think a score is wrong or missing. Contact the Lafayette USBC office. Score data comes from the leagues' weekly scoresheets — most discrepancies get resolved at the league level with the league secretary.

If you have a question about how these rules apply to your season. The **BoY Committee** answers rules-and-application questions. Contact through the Lafayette USBC office.

If you want to appeal a placement or tie-break. Appeals go to the **BoY Committee**, which reviews and makes a recommendation to the Board.

10. Appendix — worked example

Meet **Pat Reynolds**, an invented Senior Woman (SW) qualifier. Here's how her 2025-26 season adds up.

Pat's leagues:

- Long-format league A: 90 games, 195 season-ending average
- Long-format league B: 54 games, 187 season-ending average
- Short-format league: 24 games, 202 average

Games total: 168. Because she has a 66+ game league, she qualifies through the standard path. Her other two leagues, at 54 and 24 games, are below the 66-game bar and do not contribute to her Category 1.

Category 1 (Highest League Average):

- League A qualifies (90 games $\geq$ 66): **195**
- League B does not qualify (54 games $<$ 66): excluded from Category 1
- Short league does not qualify (24 games $<$ 66): excluded from Category 1
- **Pat's Category 1 = 195.** Note the 202 in the short league does not help her here — that is by design.

Category 2 (High League Series):

- Best 3-game scratch series across all leagues: 651
- **Pat's Category 2 = 651.**

Category 3 (Total League Points):

- Every qualifying game earns High Games tier points; every qualifying series earns High Series tier points
- League A (90 games) and League B (54 games) both earn average-tier points (both $\geq$ 21 games, the average threshold)
- The short league (24 games) also earns average-tier points (24 $\geq$ 21)
- Result (illustrative): **2,850 League Points**

Category 4 (Points Percentage):

- Games $\div$ points = $168 \div 2,850 = 0.0589$. Lower is better.

Category 5 (Tournament Points Earned):

- Bowled Senior City Singles (rolled 615) and Senior City Doubles (rolled 550): both earn tier points from the High Series tables
- **Result (illustrative): 340 Tournament Points**

Category 6 (Tournaments Won):

- Placed 3rd in Senior City Doubles: no win, **0**.

Suppose Pat's ranks in the 10-qualifier SW field are:

Category	Rank	Rank points (10 – rank + 1)
Highest League Average	4	7

High League Series	3	8
Total League Points	5	6
Points Percentage	2	9
Tournament Points	6	5
Tournaments Won	tied for last (5 bowlers with 0)	1
Season rank-point total		36

If Pat's 36 is the highest total in Senior Women that season, she is the Senior Woman of the Year. If she finishes second by 1 point, the Committee reviews it and may recommend the Board split the award or apply another resolution.

Sources of truth

- **The calculator itself.** Python code in `BowlerOfTheYear/src/boty/` and `BowlerOfTheYear/scripts/`, run each season via `run_season.py`. If anything here contradicts what the code does, the code is authoritative — this document should be updated to match.
- **The Points Scale.** `BowlerOfTheYear/config/{season}_BoY_points_scale.xlsx`. Sets every tier value. The engine reads it live at run time.
- **Developer reference.** `BowlerOfTheYear/rules/CODE_EXTRACTED_RULES.md`. A technical, code-anchored companion to this document; every claim there cites a file path and line range.
- **This document.** `BowlerOfTheYear/docs/LafayetteUSBC-BoY-How-It-Works.md`. Written for association members. Refreshed once per year.