



# 2024-25 ILLINOIS PEPSI USBC YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS STATE RULES and FORMAT

- 1. This tournament is certified by the USBC and shall be governed by the rules of the USBC. Tournament Certification number is 05278.
- 2. **DIVISIONS:** Competition will be held in the following divisions. ALL competition will be on a scratch basis. **Bowlers MUST compete at the state tournament in the same division they qualified through at the league level.**

U8 Division – Boys/Girls – Birth date is 8/1/2016 or later  
 U10 Division – Boys/Girls – Birth date is 8/1/2014 through 7/31/2016  
 U12 Division – Boys/Girls – Birth date is 8/1/2012 through 7/31/2014  
 U15 Division – Boys/Girls – Birth date is 8/1/2009 through 7/31/2012  
 U18 Division – Boys/Girls – Birth date is 8/1/2006 through 7/31/2009

- 3. **Participation** in the State Finals is a one-time entry. If an individual qualified and cannot participate in the State competition, replacements will be eligible based on order of finish in the previous Zone competition.

Advancers out of the league level must remain in the division they qualified during all subsequent levels. If a bowler advances out of 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 from both tournaments.

- 4. **ADVANCEMENT RATIO:** The advancement ratio from **Zone** competition to **State** competition is **one (1) for every five (5)** entries per division, or major fraction thereof, including last place ties. In all cases, **at least six persons per division shall advance** to the State Finals from each division in each zone tournament. The advancement ratio shall be applied uniformly to all divisions.

- 5. **STATE COMPETITION** will take place at

- **U8, U10 and U12 Divisions – April 11-13, 2025 at Pheasant Lanes, Bloomington, IL**
- **U15 and U18 Divisions – April 25-27, 2025 at Bertrand Lanes, Waukegan, IL**
- Squad times at the State Tournament will be assigned by the State Director.
- Competition shall be conducted in ten (10) divisions as listed in Rule 2.

<b>6. ENTRY FEE</b> for all divisions is:	<b>U8 and U10 Divisions</b>	<b>U12 Division</b>	<b>U15 and U18 Divisions</b>
	<b>Expense \$25.00</b>	<b>Expense \$30.00</b>	<b>Expense \$40.00</b>
	TOTAL: \$25.00	TOTAL - \$30.00	TOTAL: \$40.00

- 7. **ENTRY CLOSING DATE: MARCH 10, 2025 for U8, U10 and U12 divisions and March 24, 2025 for U15 and U18 Divisions.**

- 8. Paperwork will be emailed to each bowler who, in turn, then must do the following:
  - Verify and/or supply all personal information requested on the personal information form
  - Return verification form and entry fees to the State Director by the deadlines indicated in Rule 7.

## 9. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

**U8 and U10 Divisions** will bowl either April 11, 12 or 13, 2025 at Pheasant Lanes in Bloomington. All bowlers will bowl three (3) games, staying on the same pair of lanes. Position in standings will be determined by total scratch pinfall. Scholarships for tied positions will be added and divided equally.

### U12 Division

- Qualifying rounds will bowl April 11 or 12, 2025. All bowling will be at Pheasant Lanes in Bloomington.
- Qualifying round will consist of four games, moving after two (2) games.
- The field will be cut to the top **16 girls and top 16 boys** after qualifying for the Semi Finals. All ties for the final spot(s) will advance.
- Semi Final round will consist of four (4) games on April 13, 2025 at 8:30 AM. Position in standings will be determined by total scratch pins. **QUALIFYING PINFALL WILL BE CARRIED FORWARD TO SEMI FINALS.**
- Upon the completion of four semi final games, total score (8 games) will determine the top 4 bowlers in each division that will qualify for the match play final round. **QUALIFYING AND SEMI FINAL PINFALL WILL BE CARRIED OVER INTO THE MATCH PLAY FINALS.**
- The top 4 bowlers in each division will then bowl four games of match play following a USBC round robin schedule. Twenty (20) bonus pins will be awarded to the winner of each game. Ties will each receive 10 bonus pins. The first and last rounds will be based on position (first round based on 8 game positions, fourth game based on position after three games of match play).
- The final standings will be based on the total of the 12 games bowled plus bonus pins earned during the match play round.

### U15 and U18 Divisions

- Qualifying rounds will bowl April 25 or 26, 2025. All bowling will be at Bertrand Lanes in Waukegan.
- Qualifying round will consist of two (2) three (3) game blocks, moving after three (3) games.
- The field will be cut and advancers in each division will bowl at 8:30 AM on Sunday based on qualifying round scores. The exact number of advancers in each division will be based on participation in each division using a 1:4 ratio.
- Semi Final round will consist of five (5) games on April 27, 2025 at 8:30 AM. Semi Final Position standings will be determined by total scratch pins. **QUALIFYING PINFALL WILL BE CARRIED FORWARD TO SEMI FINALS.**
- Upon the completion of five semi final games, total score (11 games) will determine the top 6 bowlers in each division that will qualify for the match play final round. **QUALIFYING AND SEMI FINAL PINFALL WILL BE CARRIED OVER INTO THE MATCH PLAY FINALS.**
- The top 6 bowlers in each division will then bowl six games of match play following a USBC round robin schedule. Twenty (20) bonus pins will be awarded to the winner of each game. Ties will each receive 10 bonus pins. The first and last rounds will be based on position (first round based on 11 game position, sixth game based on position after five games of match play).
- The final standings will be based on the total of the 17 games bowled plus bonus pins earned during the match play round.

**NOTE: If at the conclusion of the Semi Final Round in all divisions there is a tie for the last advancing spot (6<sup>th</sup> place for U15/U18 Divisions and 4<sup>th</sup> place for U12 Division) a 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> frame roll off will be immediately held to determine the advancer. If at the conclusion of this roll off a tie still exists, bowlers will bowl sudden death single balls at a full rack until the tie is broken. Ties for other positions prior to match play will be broken by the last single non tied game bowled during the Sunday semi finals.**

- 10.** No substitutes will be permitted once the athletes have started tournament play; however, replacements may be used for bowlers not present 30 minutes prior to squad time. Replacements may only be used in the order of finish from the zone reports for 2024-25. Replacements in order must be called and decline before continuing down the list. Replacements must be from the same Zone as the “no-show” bowler. **Once a replacement has been made, the original bowler cannot be placed back into the tournament.**
- 11.** The State Tournaments will be contested on a non 'house shot' condition as determined by the State Pepsi Director. The condition will not be disclosed until after the tournament is completed.
- 12.** No tobacco products or consumption of alcoholic beverages by guests or athletes shall be allowed on the concourse or in the settee area. No alcohol or tobacco products may be used by competitors while competition is in progress. No smoking will be allowed within the bowling center (Illinois State Law) or within 15 feet of any entrances.
- 13. DRESS CODE:** Bowlers are required to wear suitable attire in good repair (i.e. no holes) while bowling in ISUSBC PEPSI Youth Championship Tournaments. Bowling shoes must be worn. Participants in the ISUSBC PEPSI Youth Championship Tournaments must be neat in both clothing and personal grooming and meet the following dress code rules:

### What You CAN Wear

- All competitors must wear a shirt with a “butterfly” collar or mock collar. Mock collar must be a minimum of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of one inch. All shirts must have finished sleeves for all competition. Females may wear a sleeveless shirt with a butterfly collar only if the sleeves are finished.
- T-shirts will be allowed provided they are those that have the bowling center logo, a USBC provided jersey or one purchased at our sales table (in zone or at the state tournament). T-Shirts as described earlier in this rule may be worn ONLY during qualifying rounds for the U12, U15 and U18 Divisions.
- During the Sunday Semi Finals and Finals bowlers in the U12, U15 and U18 Divisions **must** wear a shirt with a “butterfly” or mock collar or a USBC Youth Jersey as stated above or bowling 'jersey'.
- Boys may wear slacks, jeans or "walking/golf style shorts. Slacks must not contain drawstring waists or elastic bottoms.
- Female participants may wear slacks, jeans, skirts, capris, skorts or walking shorts. All skirts, capris, skorts, or walking shorts must be below the competitor’s fingertips when they are standing and their arms are hanging loosely at their side.

### What You CANNOT Wear or Use

- Clothing depicting sex, gambling, tobacco products or alcoholic beverages. Bowling Manufacturers official shirts are acceptable.
- Hats/caps/headgear.
- Spandex, Yoga Pants, sweatpants, pants with draw strings, pants with holes in them and those made out of parachute-like material.
- Chains on clothing.
- Leather clothing including jackets while bowling.
- No electronic devices of any sort will be allowed in the bowling area.
- Gym Shorts, Athletic Shorts, Bicycle Shorts and other shorts that would not fit into a category that would be classified as 'walking' or 'golf' style. Any shorts/skorts/skirts/cullottes shorter than the fingertips when the arms are hanging naturally at the sides while standing.

**Dress Code at the State Finals will be strictly enforced. Any Exceptions to the above must be approved by the tournament management prior to check-in. Coaches are asked to review the dress code for State Finals with bowlers.**

- 14.** Competitors shall be allowed ten (10) minutes of practice on their starting pair. Practice will begin 10 minutes prior to the scheduled squad starting time. No practice will be allowed when moving lanes. Extreme exceptions shall be determined by the tournament manager if a breakdown lasts more than 15 minutes in

accordance with USBC Rules.

15. Bowlers arriving late shall begin play and the score shall count beginning with the frame then bowled. Frames missed shall be credited with a zero. Frames may not be made-up. A bowler not present to bowl when it is his/her turn will be credited with a zero for that frame.
16. Only bowlers and tournament officials shall be permitted in the settee area.
17. Bowling balls must meet all USBC specifications as defined in the latest edition of the Equipment Specifications and Certification Manual. It is the player's responsibility to ensure all equipment is eligible for competition. Only balls that are on the USBC approved list and are product registered are allowed in competition. Tournament Staff reserves the right to check equipment for compliance at any time. **Bowlers must use the bowling balls in such a manner that they comply with the Equipment Specifications. No balance holes are permitted. All holes drilled must be used for gripping purposes on every delivery. No more than three (3) ounces of weight on any halves of the ball. Failure to properly use the equipment will be ball removed from competition for 1<sup>st</sup> violation, forfeiture of game for 2<sup>nd</sup> violation and disqualification for 3<sup>rd</sup> violation.**
18. Altering the surface of a bowling ball by the use of abrasives, cleaners or polish is prohibited during competition (**defined as when the first ball is thrown for score in the whole squad**). In addition, no substance may be placed on the outer surface of the bowling ball. The outer surface of the bowling ball may only be cleaned with a dry towel once the bowler has begun competition. Penalty for any infraction of this rule or any USBC Rule 18 infraction will be the immediate removal of that bowling ball for the duration of competition. Repeat offenses may be cause for forfeiture of the game (i.e. zero for the game).
19. Claims for errors in scoring or general playing rules must be made to the tournament manager no later than the start of the next block. Questionable errors shall be decided upon by the tournament manager and any committee members present. All other protests must be confirmed in writing to the tournament manager within 72 hours. Each protest under this rule must be specific in itself.
20. Symbolic awards will be given as follows: Lapel pins will be given to all State participants. Pennants will be presented to the winner of each division.
21. There is NO guaranteed first prize. Prizes will be based on a percentage basis in a ratio of one scholarship for every five paid entrants. At a minimum, in the divisions that bring bowlers back on Sunday, we will award a scholarship to every bowler that comes back on Sunday. Total prize funds for each division will be proportional to the number of participants in each division including any excess over expenses collected for the state tournament in that division. Any SMART unassigned funds used to supplement the prize fund will also be based on the proportional number of entries in each division. ALL prizes will be deposited into the USBC SMART fund in accordance with their rules.
22. The first-place winners of the U12, U15 and U18 divisions for both Girls and Boys will advance to the 2025 Junior Gold Championships on July 11-19 in Green Bay, WI, provided they have not already qualified for the 2025 USBC Junior Gold Championships through another tournament. If this is the case the highest finishing bowler in that division who has not already earned a spot in the 2025 Junior Gold Championships will be awarded the spot. In the event that a qualifier needs to be replaced and there is a tie, to determine who will advance to the Junior Gold Championships, the high game from the qualifying scores will determine who will advance. If the high score for each is the same, the next subsequent high score will be used until the tie is broken.  
They must be USBC Junior Gold members to advance to the Junior Gold Championships. Bowlers without a current Junior Gold membership must purchase a Junior Gold membership prior to June 8, 2025. IBC Youth will waive the \$200 (U18), \$150 (U15), and \$100 (U12) entry fee for these athletes. These athletes will compete for additional scholarships available to all athletes at the Junior Gold Championships, as well as other prizes and awards. All U.S. citizens are vying for a spot on USBC Junior Team USA 2026 to represent the United States in national and international competition. If the U12, U15 or U18 Division Champion is unwilling to become a Junior Gold member, they will not advance to the Junior Gold Championships. However, the athlete will still retain the state/zone scholarship, but the berth to the Junior Gold Championships will be awarded to the next eligible athlete.

*The Illinois Pepsi USBC Youth Championships will also provide up to \$500.00 toward travel expenses for the 2025 USBC Junior Gold Championships to the first place finisher in each division. To receive this stipend the bowler/parents must submit receipts totaling at least \$500 in expenses incurred for the tournament trip for the bowler. If this bowler does not attend the 2025 Junior Gold Championships the stipend will be awarded to the*

*highest finisher that does attend.*

**23.** All matters not covered by these rules and regulations shall be determined by the Illinois Pepsi USBC Youth Championships Tournament Committee. Failure to abide by any rules and regulations may lead to disqualification from this event.

State Director:

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All Results will be posted on the IL USBC Youth website: [www.ilusbcyouth.org](http://www.ilusbcyouth.org)