

USBC National Bylaws

Article I Name, Incorporation and Offices

The name of the corporation is the United States Bowling Congress, referred to in these Bylaws as "USBC." USBC is organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin and maintains offices in Texas or elsewhere as determined by the Board of Directors.

Article II Purposes

Section A. Advancing the Sport of Bowling

USBC's purposes include:

1. Fostering local, state, National, and International amateur competition in the sport of bowling;
2. Providing governance and development for, and developing interest and participation in, the sport of bowling throughout the United States and internationally as determined by the Board of Directors;
3. Being responsible to the members;
4. Keeping those engaged in the sport of bowling informed of policy matters and reasonably reflecting their views in policy decisions;
5. Certifying and regulating league and tournament competition for bowling.

Section B. Chartering State and Local Bowling Associations

USBC issues charters to state and local bowling associations that meet requirements established in these Bylaws and by the Board of Directors. Chartered associations are subject to the authority of USBC. USBC approves the geographic areas in which chartered associations may operate. The Board may revoke the charter of a state or local bowling association at any time if it determines that the association is not acting in compliance with USBC bylaws or rules, or state or local association bylaws; or is not in compliance with such requirements as USBC may establish, in its sole discretion, from time to time. Requirements for chartered state and local bowling associations include but are not limited to:

1. Acceptance of, and adherence to, the Bylaws, the terms of the charter, and the authority of the USBC Board.
2. Adoption and maintenance of bylaws in the form determined by USBC and avoidance of any rules or policies conflicting with those bylaws or the USBC Bylaws.
3. Compliance with requirements in the USBC National or Association Policy Manual, including such requirements as are added or revised from time to time.
4. Acting in the best interest of USBC and the sport of bowling.

In extraordinary circumstances, the USBC Board may waive or suspend any requirements otherwise applicable to a state or local bowling association or establish separate affiliate status for organizations serving amateur bowlers to operate under the parameters established by the Board.

Section C. Conducting Tournaments

USBC conducts tournament competition in the sport of bowling for men, women, youth and collegiate members.

Section D. Compliance

USBC:

1. Is established and conducted in compliance with applicable Federal, state, and local laws and regulations in all of its purposes, activities, policies, and programs;
2. Is not organized for profit and no part of its net earnings inure to individuals; it is organized and operated consistent with the requirements for Federal income tax exemption as an organization that fosters National or International amateur sports competition according to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations of the Internal Revenue Service;
3. Is eligible to be recognized by the United States Olympic Committee ("USOC") as the National Governing Body for the sport of bowling; provided USBC:
 - a. Is a member of only one International sports federation, i.e., the Federation Internationale des Quilleurs ("FIQ"), which is recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the worldwide governing body of bowling;
 - b. Agrees to submit to binding arbitration in any controversy involving (i) its recognition as a National Governing Body, or (ii) the opportunity of any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official to participate in amateur athletic competition upon demand of the USOC or any aggrieved amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official, conducted in accordance with the Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association as modified by the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act;
 - c. Is autonomous in the governance of the sport of bowling in that it independently determines and controls all matters central to that governance, does not delegate any of that determination or control, and is free from outside restraint;
 - d. Makes membership open to any individual who is a bowler or an amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official active in the sport of bowling;
 - e. Provides an equal opportunity to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in amateur bowling competition without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or National origin, and with fair notice and opportunity for hearing to any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official before declaring the individual ineligible to participate;
 - f. Is governed by a Board of Directors whose members are selected without regard to race, color, religion, National origin, or sex, with reasonable representation on the Board of both males and females;

- g. Has a Board of Directors and other governance bodies that have established criteria and election procedures for, and maintain among their voting members, individuals who are actively engaged in amateur athletic competition in bowling or who have represented the United States in International amateur athletic competition within the preceding 10 years, and that the voting power held by those individuals is not less than twenty percent of the voting power held in its Board of Directors or other governance body;
- h. Provides for reasonable direct representation on its Board of Directors for any amateur sports organization which, in the sport of bowling, conducts on a level of proficiency appropriate for selection of amateur athletes to represent the United States in International amateur athletic competition, a National program, or regular National amateur athletic competition, and ensures that representation reflects the nature, scope, quality, and strength of the programs and competitions of that amateur sports organization in relation to all other of those programs and competitions in the sport of bowling in the United States;
- i. Has no officers who are also officers of another amateur sports organization which is recognized by the USOC as a National Governing Body;
- j. Provides procedures for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances of its members;
- k. Does not have eligibility criteria relating to amateur status or to participation in the Olympic or Pan American Games which are more restrictive than those of the appropriate International sports federation;
- l. Is prepared to meet the obligations imposed by the USOC on a National Governing Body, including those relating to complaints against a National Governing Body and those relating to mediation of complaints;
- m. Minimizes, through coordination with other amateur bowling organizations, conflicts in the scheduling of all practices and competitions;
- n. Disseminates and distributes to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials in a timely manner the applicable rules and any changes to those rules of USBC, the USOC, and the FIQ;
- o. Promptly reviews every request submitted by an amateur bowling organization or individual for certification (i) to hold an International amateur bowling competition in the United States, or (ii) to sponsor United States amateur bowlers to compete in International competition held outside the United States, and determine whether to grant the certification according to the requirements of the USOC, all provided in written policies approved by the Board;
- p. Allows a bowler to compete in any International amateur bowling competition conducted under USBC auspices or that of any other amateur bowling organization or individual, unless USBC establishes that its denial was based on evidence that the organization or individual conducting the competition did not meet the criteria for USBC certification of bowling competition consistent with the requirements of the USOC, all provided in written policies approved by the Board;
- q. Provides equitable support and encouragement for participation by women where separate programs for male and female bowlers are conducted on a National basis;
- r. Encourages and supports amateur bowling programs for persons with disabilities and for their participation in amateur bowling activity, including, where feasible, the

- expansion of opportunities for meaningful participation by persons with disabilities in programs of bowling competition for persons without disabilities;
- s. Provides and coordinates technical information on bowling equipment design, coaching, performance analysis, sports medicine, and physical training;
 - t. Encourages and supports dissemination of information in the area of sports safety.

Article III Membership and Dues

Section A. Membership

Membership in USBC:

1. Is available to individuals who pay dues in any membership category and qualify under the rules of the Congress;
2. May be suspended or revoked without due process if a member has failed to pay applicable dues;
3. May be suspended or revoked by the Board following applicable due process if a member is found to have violated any USBC, state, or local association bylaws, policies, procedures, playing rules or other requirements.

Upon obtaining membership in USBC each member agrees to be bound by all final decisions of USBC concerning application or interpretation of USBC Bylaws, playing rules, and other matters relating to the sport of bowling as governed by USBC.

Membership in the USBC is not transferable.

Section B. Dues

USBC adult members are required to pay dues to USBC, to local associations, as well as to state associations that assess dues in combined amounts established by USBC.

USBC youth members are required to pay dues to USBC, to state associations, as well as the local processing fee in combined amounts established by USBC.

Annual adult standard membership dues are:
USBC dues not to exceed \$10.
State dues not to exceed \$1.
Local dues not to exceed \$10.

Annual youth standard membership dues are:
USBC dues \$14.50.
State dues \$0.50.
Local processing fee \$2.00.
Total: \$17.00

Article IV Board of Directors

Section A. Eligibility and Composition

Individuals elected to the Board of Directors must be members of USBC and must be at least 18 years old. Prior to election or appointment and throughout their term, an individual must be approved through the Registered Volunteer Program.

The Board consists of:

1. Delegate Directors. Twelve (12) Directors elected at a USBC Annual Meeting by the "Delegates," as defined in these Bylaws; these Delegate Directors must meet eligibility criteria established by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board;
2. Proprietor Directors. Two (2) Directors who are Proprietors, as defined in these Bylaws, and who are elected by Bowling Proprietors' Association of America ("BPAA"), and approved by the board, subject to these provisions:
 - a. A "Proprietor" is an individual who is the owner, partner, or corporate officer of a bowling center or group of bowling centers;
 - b. Excluded from the definition of "Proprietor" is an individual who owns 25% or less of the equity shares, or who is inactive in the management of the bowling center or bowling centers or who is employed by, or otherwise receives compensation from BPAA;
 - c. No more than one additional Delegate Director may serve on the Board who meets the definition of "Proprietor" and is among the 12 Delegate Directors elected by the Delegates;
 - d. Any number of Directors who meet the definition of "Proprietor" may serve on the Board if each is a Team USA Athlete, as defined in these Bylaws (See Article IX, Section B, Item 1), and is elected to the Board by Team USA Athletes, as defined in these Bylaws (See Article IX, Section B) or those board members selected by the Youth Committee;
3. Youth Directors. Three (3) Directors who are elected by the Youth Committee;
4. Team USA Directors. Five (5) Directors who are Team USA Athletes, as defined in these Bylaws, and who are elected by Team USA Athletes, or a greater number, if necessary, to assure that at least 20% of the Board consists of Team USA Athletes;
5. Other Directors. Directors who are representatives of organizations that conduct National amateur bowling programs or competition as determined by the Board based upon receipt and evaluation of written petitions from other amateur bowling organizations for representation on the USBC Board, with the Board having exclusive authority to grant or deny the petition, and with these Directors elected or appointed by their respective bowling organizations;
6. At-Large Director. Up to two (2) Directors-at-Large who may be appointed by the President and approved by the Board;
7. Youth Ambassador Director. One (1) Youth Ambassador Director who is appointed by the President and approved by the Board from the National Youth Leaders serving on the Youth Committee.

Section B. Election

At the Annual Meeting, Directors are elected to fill open positions on the Board that are subject to election by the Delegates; election is by majority vote of the Delegates present from either:

1. A slate provided by the Nominating Committee; or
2. Nominations from the floor provided that the names of nominees and their qualifications are submitted to the Nominating Committee, in writing, at least 24 hours prior to the opening of the Annual Meeting.

Team USA Athletes are elected to the Board by Team USA Athletes; the election is conducted according to policies and procedures established by the Athletes Advisory Council and approved by the Board.

Three (3) Directors are elected to the Board by the Youth Committee.

Two (2) Directors are elected to the board by the BPAA and approved by the Board.

Section C. Terms

The terms of Directors are determined according to the following provisions:

1. Each Director elected by the Delegates, by Team USA Athletes, by the Youth Committee or by BPAA serves a three-year term and may be re-elected for two additional terms;
2. Directors-at-Large appointed by the President, Youth Ambassador Director and Directors representing other amateur bowling organizations, serve one-year terms;
3. Multiple-year terms are staggered according to procedures established by the Board;
4. When a Director resigns from the Board or fills a vacancy, and has served more than half of a term, that Director is considered to have served a full term. Terms begin on August 1 and end of July 31.
5. Multiple elected or appointed terms may be served either consecutively or intermittently; but all Directors are subject to a lifetime maximum of nine years of service on the Board.

Section D. Resignation, Removal, and Vacancies

1. **Resignation.** A member of the Board of Directors may resign from the Board by providing written notice of resignation to the President or, in the case of the President, to the Board. The same process is followed if an Officer resigns his/her Officer position only, but not his/her Director position.
2. **Removal.** An Officer or Director may be removed with or without cause by a two-thirds vote of the balance of the Board of Directors.
The Board can remove:
 - a. An Officer from an office position only;
 - b. An Officer from an office position and from the Board;
 - c. A Director from the Board.
3. **Vacancies.** Vacancies in positions on the Board are filled for the unexpired portion of each term as follows:
 - a. If elected by the Delegates, or in Director-at-Large positions, vacancies are filled by the President, subject to approval by the Board;
 - b. If elected by Team USA Athletes, vacancies are filled by the Athletes Advisory Council by majority vote. The individual filling the vacancy must be a Team USA Athlete;
 - c. If elected by the Youth Committee, vacancies are filled by the Youth Committee by majority vote. The individual filling the vacancy must be a current Youth Committee member;
 - d. If elected or appointed to represent other amateur bowling organizations, vacancies are filled by the respective organizations;
 - e. If elected by BPAA, vacancies are filled by BPAA and approved by the Board.

- f. The Board fills vacancies in Officer positions.

Section E. Authority and Duties

Management and governance of USBC is vested in the Board of Directors. The Board is a strategic governing body; and its powers and duties include, but are not limited to:

1. Developing strategic business and membership marketing plans;
2. Determining programs and services;
3. Allocating resources;
4. Establishing standards and monitoring the performance of USBC;
5. Employing and evaluating the Executive Director;
6. Determining USBC policy positions;
7. Providing oversight of the administration of USBC;
8. Approving policies and procedures for:
 - a. Managing contracts and obligations;
 - b. Reviewing revenues and expenditures;
 - c. Maintaining records and minutes of meetings;
9. Exercising final jurisdiction over violations and interpretations of USBC rules and regulations, disputes with or among chartered state and local associations, and issues arising from league and tournament play including protests and appeals;
10. Interpreting any provision adopted by it and/or the delegates pursuant to the authority granted herein and its interpretation shall be final;
11. Amending, interpreting, and enforcing, either directly or by delegation, all policies and procedures, rules and requirements, criteria and standards for: certification, equipment specifications, awards, suspension and reinstatement, National tournaments, and all other USBC management and governance matters other than those specifically reserved to the Delegates;
12. Amending, interpreting, and enforcing all policies and procedures, bylaws, rules and requirements, criteria and standards for Athlete and youth issues;
13. Reserving the authority over the applicability and enforceability of the USOC requirements within the organization;
14. Amending or suspending these Bylaws, and the general playing rules, league rules, and tournament rules in the event the Board considers it expedient and in the best interests of USBC or to avoid disadvantage to USBC and/or changes in Federal and/or state law, rules and regulations that affect the applicability or the enforceability of any part of these Bylaws, the general playing rules, league rules, and tournament rules. Any changes made under this provision must be ratified by the Delegates and is otherwise subject to Delegate action consistent with applicable law;
15. Renumbering, revising, codifying and correcting any provision in the bylaws, and any and all rules and regulations of USBC to eliminate errors in spelling, grammar and numbering, and to change the order and sequence. In doing so, the meaning or purpose of the provision shall not change;
16. Establishing annual National dues up to the maximum set by the Delegates as well as establishing terms and conditions for collection of dues;
17. Establishing other membership categories and dues;
18. Managing International relations;
19. Exercising care and supervision over state and local associations;

20. Communicating applicable rules and any changes to members;
21. Approving certified bowling facilities for training and competition;
22. Developing athlete teams for National and International competition;
23. Reviewing requests for certification to hold amateur bowling competitions, and determining whether to grant certifications, according to the requirements of the USOC and as provided in written policies approved by the Board.

Section F. USBC Employees

No employee of USBC will serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors, or of USBC committees, task forces, or other governance bodies.

Article V Officers

Section A. President, Vice Presidents, Executive Director, and Other Officers

The officers of USBC include:

1. President;
2. Vice President
3. Secretary;
4. Trea

The Board of Directors may establish positions for other officers.

Section B. Election or Employment

Officers, other than the Executive Director, are elected annually by the Board from among current Directors without regard to whether they are Team USA Athletes or Directors elected by the Youth Committee or BPAA.

Section C. Term

Each officer, except the Executive Director, serves a one-year term and may be re-elected to a position for a maximum of three terms.

Section D. Authority and Duties

1. **The President:**
 - a. Presides at the Annual Meeting of USBC and at Board meetings;
 - b. May appoint Directors-at-Large, subject to Board approval;
 - c. Appoints the chair and members of all committees with Board approval, except Athlete members of committees, the Nominating Committee, the Youth Committee and the Athletes Advisory Council;
 - d. Serves as the principal spokesperson for USBC and oversees its International relations.
2. **The Vice President:**
 - a. Presides at the Annual Meeting of USBC and at Board meetings when the President is absent;
 - b. Performs other duties as prescribed by the Board or requested by the President.

3. **The Executive Director:**

- a. Serves as Secretary of the corporation;
- b. Performs whatever duties and responsibilities are prescribed by the Board or the President;
- c. Serves as an ex officio non-voting member of the Board.

**Article VI
Meetings**

Section A. Annual Meeting

An Annual Meeting of USBC is held at a time and place approved by the Board of Directors. Attendance is open to all members.

1. **Delegates.** "Delegates" are defined as individuals, who hold USBC membership, 18 years of age or older at the time of election, who are elected from associations according to these Bylaws.
2. **Voting and Speaking.** Voting at the USBC Annual Meeting is by Delegates, USBC Officers and Directors who are not elected Delegates may nevertheless vote as Delegates at the USBC Annual Meeting. All votes of the Voting Members at the Annual Meeting shall be cast by electronic ballot which shall be the sole method for determining votes at the Annual Meeting unless the President (or in the President's absence, the President Elect, or in the President Elect's absence, the Second Vice President), in his or her sole discretion, determines the circumstances reasonably require a different method of voting. All members (including the Voting Members) in good standing as of the date of the Annual Meeting may be permitted to address the members at the Annual Meeting. Other USBC members may address the USBC Annual Meeting but may not vote. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.
3. **Delegate Representation.**
 - a. Each merged state association in good standing representing men, women and youth, may elect two Delegates and two Alternate Delegates to the USBC Annual Meeting. Each non-merged state association in good standing may elect one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to the USBC Annual Meeting;
 - b. The number of Delegates to which a local association is entitled will be based on USBC's records of the association's fiscal year membership as of July 31, the year prior to the USBC's Annual Meeting. Each local association in good standing with USBC, with the exception of affiliate associations, are entitled to Delegates to the USBC Annual Meeting as follows:
 - 1) Less than 1,000 members - one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate;
 - 2) 1,000 members or more - one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof;
 - c. Newly-chartered local bowling associations, with no membership numbers recorded by July 31st, the year prior to the USBC's Annual Meeting, may elect one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to the USBC Annual Meeting;

- d. A state or local association whose charter has been suspended or revoked, or an association that is delinquent in processing dues for the current bowling season, is not considered "in good standing" for purposes of Delegates or Alternate Delegates attending the USBC Annual Meeting;
- e. Athletes, as defined in these Bylaws, are eligible to serve as Delegates.
4. **Delegate Responsibilities.** Delegates vote to:
 - a. Amend and approve the National, state and local mandatory bylaws, with the exception of provisions for compliance with USOC rules and regulations, provisions related to Athletes and Youth, and other provisions mandated by the Articles of Incorporation or applicable law;
 - b. Establish standard maximum adult dues for National, state and local;
 - c. Elect Directors to fill open positions on the Board that are subject to election by the Delegates;
 - d. Approve general playing rules, adult league rules, and adult tournament rules for the sport of bowling.
5. **Meeting Notice.** Written notice of the USBC Annual Meeting is provided to Delegates and chartered state and local bowling associations in good standing at least 30 days in advance of the USBC Annual Meeting.
6. **Quorum.** The presence of 100 Delegates establishes a quorum for the transaction of business at the USBC Annual Meeting.
7. **Action.** Elections by the Delegates are conducted according to policies and procedures established by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board. The action of a majority of Delegates present and voting, when a quorum has been established, carries a motion unless otherwise provided in the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.

Section B. Meetings of the Board of Directors

The Board meets at least three times a year. Special meetings may be held upon the request of any Director subject to the approval of a majority of the Board.

1. **Action Without a Meeting.** Action required or permitted to be taken at a Board meeting may be taken without a meeting, by written action signed by two-thirds of the Directors then in office.
2. **Meetings Via Telecommunications.** Any or all Directors may participate in a regular or special meeting or a Committee meeting by the use of any means of communication through which any of the following occurs:
 - a. All participating Directors may simultaneously hear or read each other's communications during the meeting; or
 - b. All communication during the meeting is immediately transmitted to each participating Director, and each participating Director is able to immediately send messages to all other participating Directors.
3. **Notice.** Special meetings of the Board may be held on two days or greater notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting.
4. **Quorum.** A quorum for conducting business is a majority of the Board.

5. **Action.** The vote of a majority of the Board of Directors present and voting, when a quorum has been established, is required to take action unless otherwise provided by law or by these Bylaws.

Section C. Parliamentary Procedure

The most recent version of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, governs all USBC meetings.

Article VII Committees

Section A. Standing Committees

The Standing Committees of USBC are the following:

1. **Nominating Committee.**
 - a. The Nominating Committee may establish additional eligibility criteria subject to approval by the Board of Directors, for the twelve (12) candidates for Directors whose positions are subject to election by the Delegates at the USBC Annual Meeting. The Committee develops a slate of candidates for all positions. The Committee establishes election policies and procedures subject to approval by the Board.
 - b. The Nominating Committee selects the Youth Committee, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee establishes election policies and procedures subject to approval by the Board.
 - c. Committee members are appointed by the Board; the Chair is elected by the Committee. Directors who are eligible for re-election or re-appointment to the Board do not serve on the Nominating Committee.
2. **Finance Committee.** The Finance Committee is responsible for proposing and monitoring the annual budget of USBC and providing oversight regarding other financial matters as determined by the Board.
3. **Athletes Advisory Council.** The Athletes Advisory Council is elected by members of USBC who are Team USA Athletes as defined in these Bylaws. The Council establishes policies and procedures, subject to approval by the Board, for election or appointment of Athletes to serve as members of USBC committees (other than Designated Committees as defined in these Bylaws) and task forces.

And for election or appointment of Team USA Athletes to serve as:

- a. Members of the Board;
- b. Members of Designated Committees, as defined in these Bylaws, and;
- c. The USBC Representative and Alternate to the USOC Athletes Advisory Council.

The Council itself selects Athletes to serve as:

- d. Members of committees and task forces other than Designated Committees, and;
- e. The Chair and any other officers of the Council.

The Council itself selects Team USA Athletes to serve as members of Designated Committees, as defined in these Bylaws.

The Council serves as a source of opinion and advice to the Board with regard to both current and contemplated policies of USBC. Only Team USA Athletes are eligible to serve on the Athletes Advisory Council. The USBC Representative and Alternate to the USOC Athletes Advisory Council are ex officio voting members of the USBC Athletes Advisory Council.

4. **Youth Committee.** The Youth Committee elects three (3) Directors to the Board, determines eligibility requirements for the Youth Committee, recommends youth dues, proposes youth rules, monitors, promotes and reviews youth programs; and sets strategic direction for board approval.

Prior to serving and throughout their term, an individual must be approved through the Registered Volunteer Program.

Committee members are selected by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board; the Chair is elected by the Committee.

5. **Equipment Specifications and Certification Committee.** The Equipment Specifications and Certification Committee is responsible for reviewing and making final decisions regarding new items of equipment on which USBC approval is requested.

The committee also has these responsibilities:

- a. Setting policies or procedures regarding the operation and management related to equipment specifications and certification;
- b. Granting, withholding, suspending, withdrawing or otherwise regulating bowling center certificates.

Section B. Other Committees

The President establishes other USBC committees with approval of the Board of Directors.

Article VIII Amendments

Any member or chartered state or local association may submit a proposed amendment to the general playing rules, adult league rules, adult tournament rules or these Bylaws, except with respect to provisions for compliance with USOC rules and regulations and provisions related to Athletes and Youth and other provisions mandated by the Articles of Incorporation or applicable law. Amendments must be submitted in writing and received by USBC Headquarters on or before September 1 prior to the date of the next USBC Annual Meeting. Approval of an amendment to these Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote of the Delegates, present and voting at the USBC Annual Meeting where a quorum is present. Approval of an amendment to the general playing rules, adult league rules, or adult tournaments rules requires a majority vote of the Delegates, present and voting at the USBC Annual Meeting where a quorum is present.

Amendments by the Delegates become effective as of August 1 following the USBC Annual Meeting where they were adopted, unless otherwise specified.

The Board of Directors may amend these Bylaws with respect to provisions for compliance with USOC rules and regulations and provisions related to Athletes and Youth. Voting to amend these Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote at any duly called meeting of the Board. Amendments by the Board become effective as of the date specified by the Board.

Article IX Athlete Representation

Section A. Athlete Representation

The following must consist of at least 20% Athletes as defined in these Bylaws:

1. Delegates who are eligible to attend and vote at the USBC Annual Meeting;
2. Individuals serving on committees (other than Designated Committees) and task forces.

Individuals serving on the Board of Directors and on Designated Committees must consist of at least 20% **Team USA** Athletes, as defined in these bylaws.

“Designated Committees” are defined as the Nominating Committee, the Finance Committee, and all committees or task forces empowered to resolve Athlete's grievances or select participants – including athletes, coaches, trainers, administrators and officials - in International bowling competition.

Section B. Athlete Qualifications

The term “Athlete” is defined in this section for purposes of these Bylaws. To be considered an “Athlete”, an individual must be at least 18 years of age, and meet the qualifications of at least one of the two following constituencies:

1. **Team USA Athletes** - Within the preceding 10 years, the individual has been a member of Team USA and has represented the United States in the Olympic or Pan American Games, or an Operation Gold event, or a World Championship recognized by FIQ); or
2. **Actively Engaged Athletes** - One year prior to appointment, those individuals who have demonstrated active engagement in amateur bowling competition by finishing in tournaments as follows:
 - a. For open or women's National championship tournaments conducted by USBC, the top five percent of all amateur finishers based upon the combined list of participants in the All Events event from each of the divisions in the order in which the participants scored;
 - b. For the Team USA Team Trials and National junior championship tournaments conducted by USBC, the top 50% of all amateur male finishers and of all amateur female finishers.

Section C. Athlete Representation on Board of Directors and Designated Committees

All Athletes serving on the Board, serving on a Designated Committee, or as the USBC Representative or Alternate to the USOC Athletes Advisory Council must be **Elite Team USA** Athletes.

Section D. Athlete Representation Among Delegates and on Other Committees and Task Forces

For an Athlete to be eligible to serve as a Delegate for the USBC Annual Meeting, or serve on USBC committees (other than Designated Committees) or task forces, he/she must be a Team USA Athlete or an Actively Engaged Athlete. Athletes are eligible to serve as Delegates for four-year terms corresponding to the quadrennial (four-year) period of the USOC.

Section E. Election or Appointment of Athlete Representatives

1. **Board.** Team USA Athletes directly elect the Team USA Athletes to serve on the Board of Directors.
2. **Athletes Advisory Council.** Team USA Athletes directly elect the Team USA Athletes to serve on the Athletes Advisory Council.
3. **Designated Committees.** The Athletes Advisory Council selects Team USA Athletes to serve on Designated Committees.
4. **USOC Athletes Advisory Council Representative and Alternate.**
 - a. Team USA Athletes directly elect the Team USA Athletes to serve as the USBC Representative and Alternate to the USOC Athletes Advisory Council.
 - b. The representative and alternate must be of the opposite gender.
 - c. A Team USA Athlete may only serve as the USOC Athletes Advisory Council representative for two terms.
 - d. To be eligible to run for the USOC Athletes Advisory Council position, a Team USA Athlete cannot be a paid employee of the USOC or USBC.

Article X Due Process

Section A. Applicability of Due Process

USBC provides due process when any:

1. Member, including any Athlete, is charged with a violation of any USBC regulation or requirement which could result in full or partial forfeiture of participation privileges or in other disciplinary action whether undertaken by USBC or a chartered state or local association; or
2. Individual or entity charges USBC with a violation of the requirements of the USOC Constitution or Bylaws, the USBC Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws, or rules and regulations, including but not limited to general playing rules, league rules, or tournament rules, that are adopted, endorsed, or referenced by USBC; the individual or entity charged may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. A sports organization that conducts programs in the sport of bowling on a level of proficiency appropriate for the selection of athletes to represent the United States in National or International competition;
 - b. A USBC member, including any athlete, or any coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or other official, or;
 - c. A state or local association chartered by USBC or an applicant for USBC chartering as an association.

Section B. Elements of Due Process

In matters involving members, including bowlers or amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, or officials, representing the United States in National or International competition or participating in that competition, and in matters involving league or tournament competition or suspension of membership other than for non-payment of dues, due process may include notice, hearing, expedited hearing, decision, and appeal, all as provided in written policies approved by the Board of Directors.

Article XI Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of USBC is August 1 through July 31.

Article XII Indemnification

The USBC shall to the maximum extent permitted under the Wisconsin Nonstock Corporation law, as amended from time to time, indemnify and allow reasonable expenses of any person who was or is a party or threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director, member of any committee of the USBC, officer, employee or agent of or volunteered services to the USBC; or is or was serving at the request of the USBC as a director, officer, employee or agent of any committee, or of any other corporation or enterprise unless liability was incurred because the director or officer breached or failed to perform a duty that he or she owes to the USBC and the breach or failure to perform constitutes any of the following:

1. A willful failure to deal fairly with the USBC or its members in connection with a matter in which the director or officer has a material conflict of interest;
2. A violation of the criminal law, unless the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was lawful or no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful;
3. A transaction from which the director or officer derived an improper personal profit or benefit; or
4. Willful misconduct.

Such right of indemnification shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, administrators and personal representatives of such a person. Nothing in this Section shall require or establish any obligation to indemnify (i) any employee or staff of the USBC, as to or related to any claim, action or matter including but not limited to claims or actions arising from or related to employment, contract or termination in which such individual or individuals are adverse parties to or otherwise adverse to the Board, or (ii) any firm or organization which supplies staff or staff assistance to the USBC.

Article XIII Definitions

As used in these Bylaws, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

“Delegates” shall mean individuals, who hold USBC membership, are 18 years of age or older at the time of election, and who are elected pursuant to Section C.1 of Article IV.

“Designated Committees” shall mean the (i) Nominating Committee, (ii) Finance Committee, and (iii) each committee or task force empowered to: (A) resolve any Athlete’s grievance, or (B) select participants in an international bowling competition (including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, trainers, administrators and officials).

“Athlete” shall mean an individual who is (i) at least 18 years of age, and (ii) a Team USA Athlete or an Actively Engaged Athlete.

“Team USA Athlete” shall mean an individual who (i) is a current member of the USBC, and (ii) within the preceding ten (10) years, has been, or currently is, a member of Team USA and has represented the United States in the Olympic or Pan American Games, or an Operation Gold event, or a World Championship recognized by FIQ.

“Actively Engaged Athlete” shall mean an individual who (i) is a current member of the USBC, and (ii) within the one (1) year period prior to appointment, who has demonstrated active engagement in amateur bowling competition by finishing in tournaments as follows:

1. For open or women's national championship tournaments conducted by USBC, the top five percent (5%) of all amateur/professional finishers based upon the combined list of participants in the “All Events” event from each of the divisions in the order in which the participants scored; or
2. For the Team USA Team Trials and national junior championship tournaments conducted by USBC, the top fifty percent (50%) of all amateur/professional male finishers and of all amateur/professional female finishers.

“Proprietor” shall mean an individual who is the shareholder, member, partner, or officer of a bowling center or group of bowling centers; provided, however, such individual shall not be a Proprietor if he or she (i) owns, directly or indirectly, twenty-five percent (25%) or less of the outstanding equity of a bowling center or centers, (ii) is inactive in the management of the bowling center or bowling centers, or (iii) is employed by, or otherwise receives compensation from BPAA.