
Chapter One: National Supplement-Membership-Governance

Section A. Membership

Membership in the USBC is open to every person in the United States without exception.

How Obtained

Membership is open to adults and youth who have paid the known seasonal dues to USBC, a local association and a state association. Membership begins August 1 and ends July 31 unless obtained in a summer league after March 15. Those memberships are extended for the season paid. (For example, a membership purchased April 1, 2010 concludes July 31, 2011.) A bowler may belong to additional local and/or state associations by filing for application and paying the known dues.

Membership is obtained through a:

1. USBC certified league.
2. USBC certified tournament.
3. Chartered association.
4. An Alliance-at-Large.
5. Bowling center (youth).
6. Via BOWL.com

Standard adult and youth membership is extended through October 1 of the following season or until required to pay dues in a USBC certified league the following season, whichever comes first.

Required Fees

Each individual applying for USBC membership shall pay annual USBC membership dues, local dues (adult) or local processing fee (youth) and state association dues as follows:

<u>Adult Standard Membership</u>		<u>Youth Standard Membership</u>		<u>Youth Basic/High School Dues</u>	
Maximum USBC	\$10 (currently \$10)	USBC	\$14.50	USBC	\$4.00
Maximum State	\$ 1	State	\$.50	<u>Local Processing Fee</u>	<u>\$1.00</u>
Maximum Local	\$10	<u>Local Processing Fee</u>	<u>\$ 2.00</u>	Total	\$5.00
Total Maximum	\$21	Total Standard	\$17.00		

Associations may contract with one another for reciprocal waivers or reductions in fees for bowlers seeking multiple state/local association membership.

When Paid

Adult. Annual USBC, state and local dues, currently known, shall be paid before completion of the first series in league competition.

Youth. Annual USBC, state and local dues, currently know, shall be paid prior to the completion of the bowler's third session in league competition.

Effective Dates

Adults: As of the date purchased in a league, the league secretary must forward the dues, membership application cards and league application to the local association manager within 30 days. Otherwise, membership is not effective until the date received at the local association's office.

Suspension of Membership

An individual is ineligible for USBC membership if he/she is currently under suspension from:

- USBC
- Canadian Tenpin Federation
- Former American Bowling Congress and/or the Women's International Bowling Congress and/or the Young American Bowling Alliance.

NOTE: Youth suspensions for violation of Rule 400 do not apply to adult membership.

Membership may be suspended or revoked by USBC for failure to comply with or violation of USBC, state or local association bylaws; USBC policy, procedure, rules (including league and/or tournament) or other requirements.

Youth Membership Age Limit

Individuals shall not have reached their 20th birthday on or before August 1st of the current season. If a youth turns 20 during the season, he/she may continue bowling in youth leagues and tournaments until July 31, and a summer league whose schedule goes beyond August 1.

Section B. Types of Membership

In addition to the USBC adult standard and youth standard memberships, the following optional membership programs are offered:

1. **Sport Bowling.** All bowlers participating in USBC Sport Bowling leagues must pay or provide proof of payment of the Sport upgrade in addition to all required standard USBC membership dues. Unless required by tournament rule, participants in Sport Bowling tournaments are not required to be Sport Bowling members.

Substitutes in USBC Sport Bowling leagues are permitted to participate in one league session per season without the requirement to purchase Sport Bowling membership if they have already purchased USBC standard membership for the current season. Only USBC Sport Bowling members are eligible for USBC Sport Bowling awards.

Standard USBC membership dues for ABC Lifetime and WIBC Permanent members will be paid by USBC for one state and local association per season, but the bowler is responsible for paying the additional Sport Bowling dues.

2. **Junior Gold.** Membership consists of elite youth bowlers who must:
 - a. Be a USBC member in good standing and maintain compliance with Rule 400.
 - b. Carry a minimum average of 21 games based on the previous or 12 games of the current season as follows:
 - 1) Boys 175 average.
 - 2) Girls 150 average.

- c. Purchase an additional Junior Gold membership of \$30 separate from their regular USBC membership.
 - 1) Junior Gold members will receive a youth Sport membership.
 - 2) Junior Gold membership is valid:
 - a) For the season starting August 1 through July 31.
 - b) Through October 1 of the following season for summer leagues.
 - 3) Junior Gold membership must be purchased prior to entry into a qualifying event for the USBC Junior Gold Championships.
3. **Associate.** Associate membership is available to individuals who do not obtain membership through a USBC league subject to the following:
 - a. The Associate membership dues shall be:
 - 1) Adult - National dues (\$10) plus the actual dues charged by the local and state association the bowler is joining. When local and state dues are not known, adult Associate dues will be \$21. (\$10 national, \$10 local, \$1 state)
 - 2) Youth - \$17
 - b. When Associate membership is obtained after March 15, the individual shall become a member for the balance of the current season and the next season.
 - c. The dues automatically will be adjusted whenever changes are made to the national, state and local dues.
4. **Collegiate.** USBC Collegiate membership entitles student-athletes to participate in all certified intercollegiate conferences and tournaments. Membership is open to all men and women currently enrolled in an institute of higher education.

To become a member, an intercollegiate team will complete the application for membership and submit the required dues. Each student-athlete also will complete a USBC membership application. Collegiate bowlers hold USBC national membership and a Sport membership upgrade only. If the USBC Collegiate member participates in USBC standard or Sport competition, the state/local membership dues must be paid, similar to multiple memberships.

5. **High School.** USBC High School Membership will cost \$5 and be available to all youth who bowl in recognized interscholastic competitions between two (2) or more schools. Benefits include:
 - a. USBC Youth Membership card.
 - b. USBC recognized average consisting of all complete games bowled by the member (minimum of 12 games) in eligible competitions.
 - c. The ability to participate in USBC certified tournaments for that season ending July 31. The membership is valid for recognized high school competitions during each individual team's official high school bowling season up through any state high school championship event. The membership is also valid for tournament competition only through the end of the season of issue. Should a member wish to participate in other USBC youth league competition, he/she must obtain USBC membership and pay the necessary fees. Current year USBC Standard members may participate in this program without payment of additional fees.

The USBC High School Coaches Registration Program: (formerly the High School Team Membership program) is open to all Interscholastic Coaches free of charge. Coaches can register their high school bowlers and receive benefits from USBC.

The Coaches Registration Program is valid solely for recognized high school competitions during each individual's official high school bowling season. In order to participate in other USBC Youth Competitions, (non High School) the individual must obtain USBC membership by paying all required membership dues.

Averages from the USBC High School Coaches Registration Program will not be recognized for entry purposes into any other USBC leagues and/or tournaments.

6. **USBC Youth Basic Membership.** USBC Youth Basic Membership will cost \$5 and be available to all youth who bowl in a league that meets for 12 sessions or less. Benefits include:
 - a. USBC Youth Membership card.
 - b. USBC recognized average.
 - c. The ability to participate in USBC certified tournaments.
 - d. Access to the USBC Youth Purchasable Awards program.
7. **USBC Lifetime Membership.** Former ABC Lifetime and WIBC Permanent membership will be recognized by USBC Headquarters. Standard membership dues will be credited by USBC to the appropriate state and local association(s) upon submission of the membership application for one local association and one state association per season.

USBC does not offer Lifetime Membership purchases at this time

8. **Hall of Fame Membership.** Is available for USBC Hall of Fame Members in recognition of their service to the sport of bowling. USBC shall provide one national, one state association, one local association and one Sport Bowling membership per season.

NOTE: Associations may waive dues for a USBC Life Member and/or USBC Hall of Fame Member. When state and/or local dues are waived USBC would reimburse the next association in which the person participates that does not waive dues. Hall of Fame Members count toward the delegate/membership count for the initial state and local association.

USBC Optional Benefits:

1. May offer optional benefits for members at dues reflective of the value of services provided by USBC, state and/or local associations.
2. May offer optional benefits for men, women and youth bowlers who choose to be identified with USBC. Dues will reflect the level of membership privileges, services and benefits provided.
3. Determines dues for USBC and establishes the maximum amount of state and local dues only for optional benefits.

The association must offer all levels of membership as established by USBC.

USBC is authorized to test optional benefits prior to offering them, and to waive those specific bylaws, rules and regulations required for testing and implementation.

Changes in Dues

The maximum adult standard dues may only be changed by the USBC delegation. The processing fee for youth standard dues is under the jurisdiction of the USBC Board on a recommendation from the USBC National Youth Committee.

Section C. Board of Directors

Eligibility and Term Information

1. **Eligibility.** The Board composition and eligibility for the directors elected by the delegates is outlined in the USBC Bylaws, Article IV, Section A. Additional eligibility requirements may be established by the Nominating Committee.
2. **Term.** The 12 Delegate Directors and 2 Proprietor Directors are elected positions of the Board and are divided into three groups and each has a term of three years. The groups are as follows:
 - a. Positions 1-5 are elected in 2010, 2013, 2016, etc. (This includes one Proprietor Director appointed by the Board.)
 - b. Positions 6-10 are elected in 2011, 2014, 2017, etc. (This includes one Proprietor Director appointed by the Board.)
 - c. Positions 11-14 are elected in 2012, 2015, 2018, etc.

The terms for five (5) elected Team USA Athlete Directors positions are as follows:

- a. Positions 1-2 are elected in 2010, 2013, 2016, etc.
- b. Positions 3-4 are elected in 2011, 2014, 2017, etc.
- c. Position 5 is elected in 2012, 2015, 2018, etc.

The terms for three (3) elected Youth Directors positions are as follows:

- a. Position 1 is elected in 2010, 2013, 2016, etc.
- b. Position 2 is elected in 2011, 2014, 2017, etc.
- c. Position 3 is elected in 2012, 2015, 2018, etc.

The term for the Youth Ambassador Director, appointed by the President and approved by the Board, is for one year.

Section D. Athletes

Eligibility and Election Procedure

1. **Eligibility.** Athlete eligibility is outlined in the USBC Bylaws, Article IX.
2. **Election to USBC Board.** The Team USA Athlete Board members are elected by eligible Team USA Athletes as outlined in the bylaws. The election is conducted annually based on the staggered Team USA Athlete terms.
3. **Call for Nominations.** USBC notifies all eligible Team USA Athletes to solicit interest as a Team USA Athlete Board member. The notice includes the following information:
 - a. Roles, responsibilities and expectations.
 - b. Time commitment.
 - c. Procedure on submitting resume from interested Team USA Athlete.
 - d. Deadline for resume submission.
4. Interested Team USA Athletes will send the national office a resume that includes the following information:

- a. Desire to serve in the position.
- b. Reasons why, including at least:
 - 1) Past performance.
 - 2) Applicable work, administrative or sport experience.
 - 3) Ability to commit the time.
 - 4) Still competing at an elite level.
5. **Election Procedure.** After the resume submission deadline date, all eligible Team USA Athletes will receive a ballot including all resumes received, in the exact form as they were submitted, along with the deadline date for voting.

Team USA Athlete(s) who receives the majority of votes is (are) the new Team USA Athlete director(s) and Team USA Athletes will be notified of the results.

Section E. Committees

Athletes Advisory Council (AAC) Election Procedure (USOC)

The USOC AAC Representative and Alternate are elected by eligible Team USA Athletes. The process is conducted in the year prior to the new quadrennial with the names submitted to USOC before the end of the year.

1. **Call for nominations.** The AAC sends out a notice to all eligible Team USA Athletes to solicit interest in serving as the USOC Representative and/or Alternate. The notice includes the following information:
 - a. Roles, responsibilities and expectations.
 - b. Time commitment.
 - c. Procedure on submitting resume from interested Team USA Athletes.
 - d. Deadline for resume submission.
2. Interested Team USA Athletes will send the national office a resume that includes the following information:
 - a. Desire to serve in the position.
 - b. Reasons why, including at least:
 - 1) Past performance.
 - 2) Applicable work, administrative or sport experience.
 - 3) Ability to commit the time.
 - 4) Still competing at an elite level.
3. **Election.** After the resume submission deadline date, all eligible Team USA Athletes will receive a ballot including all resumes received, in the exact form as they were submitted, along with the deadline date for voting.
4. **Results.** The Team USA Athlete with the most votes cast is the USOC Representative and the individual of the opposite sex with the highest votes will be the USOC Alternate.
5. **Notification.** All Team USA Athletes are notified of the election results.

Nominating Committee

1. **Purpose.** The Nominating Committee prepares the slate for Delegate Director positions. It selects the Youth Committee members, subject to Board approval, and meets at least one (1) time annually.
2. **Responsibilities.** In addition to what is outlined in the USBC Bylaws, Article VII, Section A. 1, the committee has the following responsibilities:
 - a. Publicizes criteria and procedures for the elected USBC Board.

- b. Establishes policies and procedures to select the Youth Committee, subject to Board approval.
 - c. Solicits names of potential nominees.
 - d. Selects members that comply with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, Subchapter ii, 220522, (a), (9) and without regard to race, color, religion, national origin or sex.
 - e. Develops the slate of one candidate per open position for election.
 - f. Receives qualifications for review from individuals running for election from the floor. All credentials must be on file with the committee, at least 24 hours prior to the start of the USBC Annual Meeting.
 - g. Evaluates all incumbents based on the approved process/form.
 - h. Determines the type of personality testing and all candidates who are in the face-to-face interview round will be tested. This includes the incumbents.
 - i. Forwards to USBC Headquarters those names that could be potential committee/task force/ad hoc committee volunteers.
3. **Composition and Terms.**

This committee shall be composed of seven (7) board members.

Eligibility: Those members of the board who are eligible for re-election at the next USBC Annual Meeting or by re-appointment may not serve. If your term expires and you are not seeking re-election, you are still not eligible to serve.

- a. At least one (1) youth representative.
- b. Two (2) athletes elected by the Athletes Advisory Council (AAC). Their representatives will be selected from the current Athlete Directors.

Board members of the committee are elected by a plurality vote and serve a one-year term. They are elected at a face-to-face board meeting after the annual meeting and prior to August 1 of each year

Youth Committee

1. **Purpose.** The Youth Committee monitors and promotes USBC youth programs. It also makes recommendations regarding youth-specific benefits; youth-specific events; youth leader programs and elects the three (3) Youth Directors to the Board. This committee also presents recommended rule changes and youth dues to the USBC Board. Recommends, for approval by the Board, the Youth Ambassador Director from one (1) of the Youth Leaders to serve in that position. This position is a one-year term.
2. **Responsibilities:**
 - a. Selects Chair.
 - b. Sets strategic plan that aligns with the USBC Strategic Plan for Board approval.
 - c. Budget.
 - d. Recommends youth dues/rules.
 - e. Monitors, promotes and reviews youth programs and services.
 - f. Creates new programs.
 - g. Determines eligibility requirements for the Youth Committee and works with the Nominating Committee for candidates.
 - h. Elects the three (3) Youth Directors from the Youth Committee to the Board of Directors.

3. **Composition.** The committee is selected by the Nominating Committee, with Board approval. The committee will include three (3) National Youth Leaders and may also include the following:
 - a. Collegiate/high school representatives.
 - b. Coaches, program directors.
 - c. Athletes, proprietors.
 - d. Industry leaders.
 - e. Volunteers.
 - f. Non aligned representatives (corporate partners, etc.).
 - g. Board members.
4. **Term.** Members of the Youth Committee serve three (3) year terms subject to a limitation of three (3) terms maximum.

Legal and Legislative Committee

1. **Purposes:**
 - a. **Legal.** Responsible for ensuring due process for members and athletes and to maintain the integrity of the sport of bowling.
 - b. **Legislative.** Reviews proposed legislation, discusses items submitted by staff and other committees and, if needed, may propose legislation or work with another committee to propose legislation.
2. **Responsibilities**
 - a. **Legal**
 - 1) Decides appeals of administrative decisions.
 - 2) Reconsideration of cases decided by the committee.
 - 3) Decides appeals of decisions made relating to Athletes participating in protected competitions. (See the USBC Bylaws, Article X for Grievance and Due Process Procedures - Protected Competition.)
 - b. **Legislative**
 - 1) Reviews proposed amendments submitted from the field for content and clarity prior to review by the Board of Directors.
 - 2) Returns amendments that do not merit Board and delegate consideration.
 - 3) Develops and presents a recommendation to the Board for each amendment.
 - 4) Develops amendments as necessary.
 - 5) Presents the Board's recommendation on each amendment to the delegates.
 - 6) Responds to questions regarding proposed amendments at Board and delegates meetings.
3. **Authority**
 - a. **Legal.** Has the authority to make final decisions on all appeals resulting from administrative decisions, as well as the authority to make final decisions on matters relating to athletes participating in protected competitions.
 - b. **Legislative.** Has the authority to return amendments submitted from the field it believes does not merit Board and delegate consideration.

Equipment Specifications and Certification Committee

Equipment Specifications and Certification Committee authority is outlined in the USBC Bylaws Article VII, Section A, Item 5.

The Equipment Specifications and Certification Committee, acting for and on behalf of the Board is authorized to have final authority to alter or change specifications.

Section F. Amendment Procedures

Amendments Policy

1. **Board Authority.** The Board authority is outlined in the USBC Bylaws Article IV, Section E, Items 11, 12, 14, and 15. The USBC Board, by a two-thirds vote, may amend the following:
 - a. The provisions of the USBC National Bylaws specific to compliance with USOC rules and regulations, provisions related to athletes and youth and other provisions mandated by the Articles of Incorporation or applicable law and those specific to youth competition.
 - b. National Championship tournament rules.
 - c. Youth league rules.
 - d. Youth tournament rules.
 - e. Awards rules.
 - f. Resolutions.

Items a-f may be amended at any duly called meeting of the Board. Youth changes must first be considered by the Youth Committee and submitted to the Board with a recommendation.

All amendments/resolutions approved by the Board become effective immediately, unless otherwise specified.

2. **Delegate Authority - Bylaws.** Delegate authority for bylaws is outlined in the USBC Bylaws Article VIII. The delegates, by a two-thirds vote may amend the following:
 - a. The *USBC National Bylaws* with the exception of those listed in Section 1. of these amendment procedures.
 - b. *USBC State Bylaws*.
 - c. *USBC Local Bylaws*.
3. **Delegate Authority - Other.** Delegate authority for rules is outlined in the USBC Bylaws, Article VIII. The delegates by a majority vote may amend the following:
 - a. The general playing rules.
 - b. Adult league rules.
 - c. Adult tournament rules.
4. **Submission Date.** To be considered at the next USBC Annual Meeting, a proposed amendment must be submitted:
 - a. By a member or chartered association, in writing, to USBC Headquarters by September 1 prior to the date of the next USBC Annual Meeting.
 - b. By a USBC committee or the USBC Board, in writing, to USBC Headquarters by December 1 prior to the date of the next USBC Annual Meeting.

5. **Special Procedures.** The USBC Board, by a two-thirds vote, may submit a proposed amendment to the USBC National, State or Local Bylaws (except those listed in Section 1, Item a of these amendment procedures), the general playing rules and/or adult league or tournament rules directly to the delegates prior to the opening of the USBC Annual Meeting.
6. **Effective Date of Amendment.** The effective date of amendments is outlined in the USBC Bylaws Article VIII. All amendments approved by the delegates become effective August 1 following the annual meeting where they were adopted, unless otherwise specified.
7. **Withdrawal of Proposed Amendments.** A proposed amendment may be withdrawn by the proposer prior to being presented at the USBC Annual Meeting delegates' session.
8. **Returned Amendments.** Those amendments, which in USBC's judgment do not merit Board and delegate consideration, will be returned to the proposer. The proposer of a returned amendment may resubmit the proposal the following year, by September 1 prior to the next USBC Annual Meeting, if it is supported by a signed by 100 USBC members. The addresses and USBC membership numbers of the signers of the petition must be included. Such amendments will be submitted to the delegates for consideration at the next USBC Annual Meeting delegates' session.
9. **Action on Amendments.** The action by the Board and delegates on each amendment considered shall be limited to the following:
 - a. Adopt as submitted or amended.
 - b. Reject.
 - c. Defer for one year for further study.Motions to table or postpone indefinitely shall be out of order.
10. **Codification.** USBC Headquarters, with Board approval, may renumber, revise, codify and correct any provision of the bylaws, rules and regulations of the USBC, but in doing so, it shall not change the meaning of any provision.
11. **Disseminates and distributes proposed changes.** Proposed amendments/resolutions are distributed to the membership and other affected parties at least 30 days in advance of the USBC Annual Meeting through the following processes:
 - a. Posted on the official Web site, BOWL.com.
 - b. Announced in appropriate USBC publications.

Delegate Vacancies to USBC Annual Meeting

1. **Prior to the USBC Annual Meeting:**
 - a. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired portion of each term by the alternates, in the order in which they were elected.
 - b. If a vacancy still exists, the president fills the vacant position by appointment.
 - c. The appointee must meet the same eligibility requirements as elected positions.
2. **When a local association elects fewer delegates than it is entitled, the Board of Directors may exercise one of the following options:**
 - a. Authorize another election to be held at a membership meeting to fill the position(s).
 - b. Fill those vacancies with alternates, in the order in which they were elected.
 - c. Empower the president to fill the vacancies when alternates are not available.
3. **At the USBC Annual Meeting:** When a local association is not fully represented while attending a USBC Annual Meeting, the delegates of the association who are present may select enough of their members who are present to act as delegates so that the association may be fully represented at the meeting.