
Chapter Three: Association Structure

This chapter details USBC requirements for associations regarding charters, association purpose, tax exemption, incorporating, association name, jurisdictional area, and association dissolution.

USBC is the representative, legislative and executive body with complete and final jurisdiction over chartered associations, its members, leagues, and tournaments.

Section A. Association Purpose

The purpose of the association is to:

1. Provide equal opportunity for all in the sport of bowling without regard to race, religion, age, gender, disability or national origin.
2. Promote the game of American Tenpins.
3. Conduct and support bowling competition.
4. Engage in other activities permitted by an organization classified as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
5. Provide services and benefits to its members.
6. Enforce the playing rules.
7. Promote the growth of youth activities.
8. Maintain or increase membership.
9. Foster programs to increase bowling skills among its membership.

Section B. Incorporation

Every USBC association (excluding affiliate associations) will incorporate. Associations must comply with state requirements and maintain their corporate status. This could include yearly filings and fees.

Section C. Association Name

1. The name of the association is subject to approval of USBC Headquarters.
2. Association name will be as follows:
 - a. (Name of state or local) USBC (Serving men, women and youth)
 - b. (Name of state or local) USBC BA (Serving men and women)
 - c. (Name of state or local) USBC WBA (Serving women)
 - d. (Name of state or local) USBC Youth (Serving youth)

Section D. Association Jurisdiction/Location

1. The association's jurisdictional boundaries shall be determined at the time of initial chartering and shall be approved by USBC Headquarters.
2. Jurisdictional boundaries describe the area, including the centers, assigned to an association. The association will then provide programs and services to the members in the centers in that area. Boundary examples include county lines, state roads, rivers, mountains, etc.
3. USBC Headquarters shall decide all questions of jurisdiction. The association(s) involved in a jurisdictional boundary dispute shall submit their recommendation(s) to USBC Headquarters for a decision. Any appeal of the decision shall be submitted to USBC Headquarters according to USBC appeal procedures.

4. Any change or modification of the boundaries shall be approved by USBC Headquarters.
5. Local association jurisdictional boundaries shall include at least one certified bowling center.
6. The following may not serve the same center:
 - a. Merged and a non-merged adult association.
 - b. Two merged associations.
7. A youth association will determine if it will merge with the BA and WBA adult associations in the same jurisdictional boundaries. This merger must include both adult associations. The youth association has the option of merging or remaining non-merged.
8. A merged association serving men, women, and youth in the same jurisdictional boundaries as a non-merged youth association may either compete for the youth membership or make an agreement that the youth association will provide programs and services for the youth in the area.

NOTE: This scenario will be detailed throughout this manual as "merged with a youth association."

9. Local associations shall only be affiliated with one merged state association or a non-merged BA, WBA and/or youth state association, with the exception of a merged state (BA/WBA) with a non-merged youth state association.
10. Multiple states may combine into one state association with approval of USBC Headquarters.
11. The location of the association office shall be determined by the board and should be central to the area served.

Section E. Association Dissolution

Associations dissolved include but are not limited to, those that have merged with another association, have not completed the charter process with USBC or have had their charters revoked by USBC.

At the direction of the former association board, prior to merging, all assets remaining after payment and discharge of its duties, obligations, and liabilities will be distributed proportionately. This board determines the division of the assets including trusts. No portion of the assets is distributed to any organization not described in Internal Revenue Code (IRC), Section 501(c)(3) of 1986, as amended.

For all other associations dissolved, all assets remaining after payment of its lawful obligations shall be distributed in accordance with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), Section 501(c)(3) and regulations promulgated thereunder.

USBC has the authority to enforce any/all distributions provided they meet the requirements described in IRC, Section 501(c)(3) of 1986, as amended. Failure to distribute could be cause for suspension from USBC.