



Jurisdictional Structure

An association's jurisdiction (sometimes referred to as its jurisdictional boundaries) is the geographical area the association services. An association services all members bowling at certified centers located within the defined jurisdiction (unless a reciprocal agreement exists). A bowler's actual residence has no bearing on jurisdiction.

There is no minimum or maximum jurisdiction size, associations have jurisdictions ranging from a few square miles to an entire state.

Non-merged Associations

A non-merged association continues to have the capability of merging with neighboring associations and offers programs and services to one of the following in its defined jurisdiction:

1. BA – men and women.
2. WBA – women only.
3. Youth – youth only.

Merged Association

A merged association offers programs and services to all membership constituencies (men, women, and youth) in its defined jurisdiction. For a merger to occur, both a BA and a WBA have to agree to the merger.

Service Agreements

While a merger is comprised of both a BA and WBA, a youth association(s) can elect to join the merger with the BA and WBA or remain non-merged.

This allows for two types of merged associations: (1) those that serve all constituencies, men, women and youth and (2) those that serve men and women bowlers, and compete or have an "agreement" with a non-merged youth association to serve the youth.

An "agreement" only can exist between a merged BA/WBA and a non-merged youth association. The agreement should be negotiated at the state/local level between the associations involved, and USBC Headquarters must be aware that an agreement exists between a merging BA/WBA and a non-merged youth association.

A non-merged youth association may have an agreement with more than one merged BA/WBA.

Competing Scenarios

A youth association may choose not to be part of a merger for a variety of reasons. For example, the youth association may share centers with a number of other BAs and WBAs and has not decided which association they want to merge.

In any case, the opportunity for an agreement allows the youth association to have options in the merging discussions.



A competing scenario occurs when a youth association chooses not to merge with the BA/WBA, and the merging BA/WBA decides to compete with the non-merged youth association by offering programs and services to youth members in the same center(s).

At the local level, each certified youth league determines whether they will certify through the bowling center or with the local association, the merged association (serving men, women and youth), or the non-merged youth association. The league should look at a number of factors when determining its affiliation, including the bowling center/association's programs, tournaments, scholarship opportunities, leaders, etc. If the league processes its membership through the bowling center, each youth bowler also has the option of belonging to both local associations by completing a membership application and paying appropriate local processing fees.

In the event of a competing scenario at the state level, each youth bowler will determine which state association he/she would like to certify through, the merged association (serving men, women and youth), the non-merged youth association or both. Again, each youth bowler should look at the same factors when determining which state association to join.

Non-Competing Scenarios

A non-competing scenario occurs when the youth association chooses not to merge with the BA/WBA and sets up an agreement to provide programs and services to youth bowlers. The agreement with the non-merged youth association fulfills the merging BA/WBA's requirement to ensure services are being provided to youth bowlers. If issues arise, such as a lack of service to the youth bowlers, both the merged BA/WBA and non-merged youth association would be held accountable.

Merged BA/WBA Board Composition

The composition of the merged BA/WBA board differs based on the type of scenario (competing or noncompeting) that exists. The following lists how the merged BA/WBA board would be structured based on each scenario:

- **Competing Scenario**

When a merged association, serving men, women, and youth, is competing with a non-merged youth association for youth bowlers in the same center(s), the non-merged youth association will not have representation on the merged board.

- **Non-Competing Scenario**

A merged BA/WBA that does not directly serve youth due to a service agreement with a non-merged youth association, is still required to have at least 20 percent youth representation on its board. The board of the non-merged youth association is providing youth services for the merged BA/WBA and would act as the Youth Committee.