

Registered Volunteer Program: Code of Conduct

Rules of Behavior and Policies for Those Who Work with USBC Youth

Providing a safe environment for young people who participate in United States Bowling Congress youth programs is USBC's highest priority. USBC's Registered Volunteer Program is designed to ensure all USBC employees and volunteers who work with youth bowlers are dedicated to that objective. Part of that commitment is a mandatory agreement to abide by the USBC Registered Volunteer Program Code of Conduct.

USBC's Code of Conduct for Registered Volunteers

The following list includes prohibited and recommended behavior for anyone involved with USBC Youth programs. Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or termination of volunteer privileges.

Prohibited Behavior:

- Consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs while working with youth.
- Providing alcohol or drugs to youth, or allowing consumption of same while under an adult's supervision.
- Mental, physical, verbal, or sexual abuse of any child.
- Denying any youth the opportunity to participate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability.
- Failure to respect the privacy of youth, especially in situations calling for changing clothes or taking showers (the only exception is when health or safety issues dictate specific action).

- Disciplining youth by use of physical punishment or failure to provide necessities such as water, food, or shelter.
- Being alone with a single child where others cannot observe you.
- Leaving a child unsupervised.
- Inappropriately touching a youth's body. As a rule, this includes any area of the body that would be covered by a bathing suit. It is normally acceptable to touch a youth on the shoulders, arm or upper back. Tickling, wrestling, or teasing youth is inappropriate.
- Using profanity, telling inappropriate jokes, sharing intimate details of one's personal life, and using any kind of harassment or sexual references in the presence of youth or parents.
- Releasing a youth to anyone other than the authorized parent or guardian, or to a person designated by the parent/guardian.

Recommended behavior:

- Ensuring suspicious or unknown individuals do not occupy restrooms with unescorted youth. Always send youth to a restroom in pairs if staff is unable to accompany an individual.
- Using positive reinforcement and encouragement to manage or change behavior. Avoid comparison or criticism. Praise will encourage positive behavior and create an atmosphere of cooperation and fun.
- Treating all youth fairly.
- Serving as a role model by maintaining an attitude of respect, responsibility, caring, fairness, sportsmanship and trustworthiness.
- Welcoming and encouraging parents to attend all USBC youth functions.

Special Rules for Youth Who Serve as Volunteers

USBC encourages young people to take an active role as participants and as future USBC leaders. Youth who accept responsibilities while serving as volunteers are expected to behave as adults, but specific rules apply:

1. Teens serving as USBC Youth volunteers must abide by the same USBC Registered Volunteer Program rules as adults.
2. Teens who meet the “roles and positions” criteria defined in the RVP Rules and Policies are required to participate in the USBC Registered Volunteer Program when they reach the age of 18.
3. Youth volunteers under the age of 21 are not authorized to drive groups of youth or serve as chaperones as part of their USBC volunteer roles.