



Tournament Rules

A USBC event, the 2009 U.S. Women's Open is a singles scratch tournament and is USBC certified. The game of American Ten Pin will be played.

(In alphabetical order)

1. AVERAGE REQUIREMENT

There is no minimum average required to participate in the U.S. Women's Open.

2. BOWLING EQUIPMENT

Bowling Balls

- Each entrant will be allowed a maximum of eight bowling balls in the bowling center at one time. Any or all bowling balls may be changed before or after any qualifying block or match.
- Only USBC approved bowling balls will be allowed. Plugged bowling balls may be used as long as they meet USBC specifications.
- Random checks of bowling balls may be done as deemed necessary by tournament management.
- Any bowler may request to have her bowling balls checked prior to competition.

Powder

No substance, including talcum powder or EZ Slide, can be applied to the bottom of a player's shoes once the bowler has begun competition.

Rosin

No substance may be placed on the outer surface of the bowling ball. After the bowler begins competition, the outer surface of the ball may only be cleaned with a dry towel.

3. CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

- A refund will be given, less \$50 cancellation fee, if written notice is received by July 3, 2009.
- A refund will be given, less a \$100 cancellation fee, if written notice is received by July 18, 2009
- Those who withdraw/cancel may obtain their own replacements. Bowlers will make their own arrangements as to repayment of their individual entry fees.
- USBC must be notified of replacements prior to 9 a.m. PST on August 1, 2009.
- No replacements will be permitted after the tournament begins.

4. DATES AND LOCATION

Dates: August 3-9, 2009

Location: Strike Zone at Sunset Station, 1301 W Sunset, Henderson, NV 89014

Tournament Entry Closing Date

August 3, 2009 at 5 p.m. (Pacific Time)

5. DELAYS

If a delay of 15 minutes or longer occurs during competition, tournament management, at their discretion, may authorize warm-up ball(s).

6. DRESS CODE

Participants are expected to wear suitable attire. Use good judgment when selecting attire.

Requirements:

- A shirt with the participant's name on the back must be worn during competition. Last or full name on a detachable name plaque is acceptable **for qualifying only**.
- The top 12 participants will be required to have a shirt with their name **embroidered or sewn** on the back for the TV Round.

Prohibited attire include but are not limited to:

- Hats (for medical reasons only)
- Tank, halter and spaghetti strap tops, bare midriffs.
- Workout attire, short shorts, short skirts, bib overalls.
- **No denim jeans of any color will be allowed at any time, including practice.**

Bowlers will be required to change if attire is deemed inappropriate by tournament management or designee. Tournament management or designee decision will be final.

7. EATING - DRINKING - SMOKING

- Participants are not permitted to drink alcoholic beverages or smoke while participating in the U.S. Women's Open. This includes from the start of practice to the last ball thrown for score during qualifying, quarterfinals and the championships.
- Participants will be allowed to eat a small snack during competition (fruit, power and/or candy bars, etc.).

8. ELIGIBILITY

- Open to USBC adult women members who hold a 2008-09 or 2009-10 membership.
- If a current membership cannot be verified, USBC associate membership card must be purchased at the tournament site at a cost of \$21.00. This membership fee will be applied to the 2009-2010 season (local, state, and national membership).
- USBC Sport membership is not required. However, in order to be eligible for USBC Sport awards earned in the U.S. Women's Open, a USBC Sport membership is required. Otherwise, standard USBC awards will be awarded.
- USBC may use the bowler's name and likenesses including video for promotional purposes, at no cost to the bowler and with no fees paid by the bowler.

9. ETIQUETTE

- Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated on the lanes or inside the tournament venue. Individuals are subject to ejection for engaging in improper tactics or conduct including, but not limited to, physical and verbal abuse toward other persons.
- Cell phones, pagers and flash photography should not be used in the bowling center while bowlers are in competition.

10. FEES

- **\$300 per participant prior to July 10**
- **\$350 after July 10**
- Expense fee: \$50. Prize fee: all entry fees collected beyond expense fee.
- Prize fee will be paid out 100%. Prize ratio will be at least 1 for every 4 entrants.

11. FORMAT

Qualifying: August 3-7, 2009

- Will consist of 40 total games, one 8-game block each day for the first three days and two 8-game blocks on the fourth day.
- Bowlers compete “across the house” during their 8-game blocks. The number of lanes to be skipped after each game will be determined by tournament management.
- Each 8-game block will be bowled on a different PBA Experience lane pattern.

First Cut

- After 24 games, the top 25% of the field will advance to the fourth day of qualifying and bowl an additional 16 games (two 8-game blocks). The top 25% of the field will be the tournament “cashers.”

Second Cut

- After 40 games, the top 12 players advance to the TV Round on August 8-9.
- The top four seeds receive one-round byes in the TV Round.
- In the event of a tie for the No. 12 position, there will be a one-game roll-off to break the tie.
- Should a tie still exist, there will be a one ball roll-off.
- Any ties for positions 1-11 will be determined by the highest 8-game qualifying block over the four days of qualifying. If a tie still exists, the second-highest qualifying block will be used.

Qualifying Squad Times

- Squad A: 8 a.m.–noon
- Squad B: 1:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.
- Qualifying squads will be assigned by tournament management.

TV Round: August 8-9, 2009

- Each match will consist of one game against an opponent.
- The 2009 USBC Women’s Championships pattern will be used.
- For the TV shows, there will be a 25-second shot clock. Penalties are as follows:
 - 1st offense: warning
 - 2nd offense: \$100
 - 3rd offense: \$200
 - Any further offense: \$300
- For all TV shows, each bowler will be permitted one coach/guest to be seated next to them in the bowlers' area. This person will wear a wireless microphone.
- The players for each of the four televised shows and the pairings will be as follows:

<u>Show 1</u>	<u>Show 2</u>	<u>Show 3</u>	<u>Show 4</u>
No. 5 vs. No. 12	No. 6 vs. No. 11	No. 7 vs. No. 10	No. 8 vs. No. 9
No. 4 vs. 5/12 winner	No. 3 vs. 6/11 winner	No. 3 vs. 7/10 winner	No. 1 vs. 8/9 winner

- These four shows are scheduled to air weekly starting on September 14 at 2 p.m. EDT on ESPN.
- If there is a tie in any match of the quarterfinals, a one-ball roll-off will be bowled to break the tie.

Semifinals and title: August 9, 2009

- The four winners from each of the quarterfinals will bowl the Championship round on August 9, 2008.
- The 2009 USBC Women’s Championships pattern will be used.
- Pairings are as follows:
 - Show No. 1 winner vs. Show No. 4 winner
 - Show No. 2 winner vs. Show No. 3 winner
- Semifinal winners will meet for the Championship
- Any ties during the TV matches will be determined by a one-ball roll-off.
- The four second-place finishers from the first four TV shows will become the alternates for the semifinals. The four alternates will be ranked 1-4 based on their two-game total in the TV Round.

12. LANE COURTESY

Two-lane courtesy will be given

13. LANE OIL PATTERN

PBA Experience lane patterns will be used over the course of qualifying. To learn more about the PBA Experience lane patterns, log onto www.sportbowling.com. All television matches will be conducted on the 2009 USBC Women's Championships oil pattern, posted on bowl.com.

14. PRACTICE SESSION

- Official Practice Sessions
August 3, 2009: The Cheetah, Viper, Scorpion, Shark and Chameleon PBA Experience patterns will be available.
- Participants will be divided by squad. Squad A: 12 p.m.-2 p.m., Squad B: 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

*****A MANDATORY PLAYER MEETING FOR ALL PARTICIPATING ATHLETES WILL BE HELD AT 6:30 P.M. FOLLOWING THE AUGUST 3RD PRACTICE SESSION.**

15. PRIZE MONEY

- During qualifying, the top three daily leaders will receive \$750, \$500 and \$250 respectively.
- If for any reason a bowler wishes to waive the prize money, it is the participant's responsibility to notify the tournament management in writing at time of registration regarding their refusal of the prize money. If waived, the amount will be returned to the prize fund for distribution.
- The IRS requires USBC to furnish 1099 forms to individuals who accumulate winnings of \$600 or more annually in any USBC event in which they participate. Therefore, social security numbers are required by IRS regulations.
- Failure to furnish a social security number (U.S. citizens) or Individual Tax ID Number-ITIN (non-U.S. citizens) to USBC will result in a 30% tax reduction of the prize check.

16. REGISTRATION

- All bowlers must register at the tournament office prior to qualifying.
- A current USBC membership must be shown.

17. START OF COMPETITION - Definition

Start of competition begins with the participant's first ball thrown for score during qualifying and finals.

Tournament management has the final authority to make decisions regarding anything not covered in these rules.

TERMINATION /RELEASE CLAUSE

To the Chief Operating Officer of the United States Bowling Congress: I hereby make application to participate in the 2009 U.S. Women's Open event listed and tender the entry fees required therefore. I warrant that I am a USBC member or agree to purchase a USBC associate membership at the tournament site. I agree to abide by all tournament playing rules and regulations prescribed by USBC, including all provisions set forth on this form. I specifically agree for myself and any replacement chosen by me or for me that if I am not eligible for participation and/or cannot bowl in the U.S. Women's Open, then my prize, bowling, and expense fees shall be forfeited and all sums tendered by me as prize, bowling and expense fee may be retained by USBC as liquidated damages. The entrant whose name appears hereon or my authorized replacement hereby agrees that the USBC, its officers and agents shall be liable only to the extent of returning entry fees, less expenses, if and when that entrant shall be prevented from bowling any event in the tournament through premature termination of the tournament, which may be brought about by war, national emergency or emergencies or causes relating thereto resulting therefrom, fires, labor difficulties, terrorism or threats of terrorism, or other causes beyond the control of USBC. I further agree that USBC may use my name and likenesses (including video) for promotional purposes at no cost to me and with no fees being paid by me.

The entrant whose name appears on this application and/or authorized replacement hereby agrees that the USBC, and its officers and agents, shall not be liable for any injury resulting from participation in bowling in the U.S. Women's Open, absent willful or gross negligence on the part of USBC.