

**2024 USBC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS
OFFICIAL RULES, POLICIES AND PLAYING INFORMATION**

APRIL 27 to JUNE 29 (last team date – unless extended)

**National Bowling Stadium
300 University Way
Reno, NV 89501**

ENTRY CLOSE DATE: April 26, 2024

1. AVERAGES – REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The average to be used will be determined in the following order:

- A. Women's Championships tournament average, based on most recent 27 games bowled at the tournament since 2015 (Championships Average).
 - B. League Average – Bowlers without a qualifying Championships Average will enter with the highest average from either the 2022/2023, 2021/2022 or 2020/2021 USBC winter or summer season, based on 21 or more games in a USBC-certified league OR the highest composite average of 21 games or more during the same period.
 - C. Current Average – Bowlers who do not have an average from A or B must enter with whichever is higher - their current certified average at the time of bowling of 21 or more games OR current composite average of 21 or more games in all current USBC leagues. League standings sheets or a letter of verification from association manager must be presented upon check-in.
 - D. No Average – Bowlers who do not meet any of the requirements of A, B or C will be entered with a 220 Challenge average.
 - E. Pink Sheet – Prior to competition, each entrant must complete and sign the Women's Championships Pink Sheet available on BOWL.com, under Women's Championships/Information or on-site.
- 1) All bowlers must answer questions covering professional status, national/major titles, Team USA and collegiate status.

2) Bowlers without a Women's Championships average also must answer questions covering USBC rules 200a, 319a, 319c, 319d and 319e.

Note: All averages not established on a Challenge condition will be converted to Challenge using the appropriate conversion chart.

FAILURE TO REPORT REQUIRED INFORMATION

Failure to answer any applicable question on the Pink Sheet shall be cause for disqualification. Bowlers must attest to the accuracy of the information provided, and an understanding of the consequences of their failure to provide the proper facts.

AVERAGE INTEGRITY

Any bowler found using an average below the player's ability will be disqualified from the competition and subject to suspension charges initiated under USBC Rule 17a, Grounds for Disciplinary Action – Unfair Tactics.

2. AVERAGES – VERIFICATION/CORRECTION

Bowlers are responsible for verifying the accuracy of their averages, whether originally submitted by the bowler, team captain or others. If submitted average is lower than required and results in a lower classification, the bowler's score is disqualified. If the submitted average is higher than required, prize winnings will be based on the submitted average. In the case of a team of two or more bowlers, the averages will be combined to determine if the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total. Average corrections can be made up to the end of the bowler's first game of a series. If an extension of time has been granted in writing by tournament management before the end of the first game of a series, the bowler will be placed in the Diamond Division, pending verification of average, which must be submitted by the bowler within 10 days of the end of the event.

3. AVERAGES - ADJUSTMENTS

Tournament management has the authority to adjust a bowler's average upward before participation in any event. For purposes of average adjustment, tournament management will use guidelines including, but not limited to, Women's Championships performance, previous tournament winnings and any records of bowler performance from leagues and/or tournaments. A bowler has the right to appeal adjustments to the USBC Rules department within 15 days of notification. If the assigned average is not accepted by the bowler, the entry fee shall be refunded.

AVERAGE RELIEF

Bowlers wanting to apply for relief of average due to injury or disability under provisions of USBC Rule 4e should apply a minimum of 30 days prior to bowling. Applications for relief of average (USBC Rule 4e) must be submitted in writing to USBC Headquarters, Attention: Rules. Please see USBC Playing Rules for information regarding Rule 4e. Tournament staff does not have the authority to grant average relief.

4. CLOSE OF ENTRIES - CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

Entries into the USBC Women's Championships will be accepted until the official entries closing date. Entries received after this date will be returned. All entries are subject to the Tournament Cancellation/Refund Policy.

Note: *The addition of doubles, singles and/or all-events to an existing team entry does not constitute a new entry. The doubles, singles and/or all-events fee(s) must be paid before the participant bowls any of the events.*

Refunds will be issued to any captain who pays at least the team entry fee and requests cancellation in writing by the official close of entries date. Refunds are subject to a \$40 service charge. Cancellations received after the official close of entries date may be considered for the following if requested in writing prior to the team's date of competition:

- A. A team captain may transfer their entry to a substitute team at no cost. The substitute team will be required to pay in full prior to substitution. The original team captain will not receive any refund until the substitute team is paid in full.
- B. A team captain may request a tournament credit, which is a transfer of the expense portion of the captain's entry to the following year's tournament.

Note: *Tournament credit is available only for the following year. Tournament management will consider the above requests on a case-by-case basis.*

5. DRESS CODE

Entrants are expected to wear attire suitable and representative of participation in a national championship event. For details, please refer to the USBC Women's Championships Dress for Success Brochure available on BOWL.com, under Women's Championships/Information.

Examples of prohibited attire include hats (medical reasons only), tank tops, halter tops, bare midriffs, spaghetti strap tops, workout attire (sweats, yoga pants, leggings, etc.), short shorts*, short skirts*, short culottes*, bib overalls, torn jeans and cutoffs.

*The length of these items (shorts, skirts, culottes) must go beyond the fingertips when your arms are at rest along your sides.

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

PRIDE AWARD

To reward teams dressed in a "team uniform," USBC has created the Pride Award. To qualify for the award, all four members of a team must wear matching attire when they bowl their team event. Jeans are not permitted for a team to be eligible for the Pride Award.

6. DIVISION STRUCTURE

TEAM

Diamond	701 and above
Ruby	621 thru 700
Emerald	541 thru 620
Sapphire	540 and below

AVERAGE

DOUBLES

Diamond	351 and above
Ruby	311 thru 350
Emerald	271 thru 310
Sapphire	270 and below

AVERAGE

SINGLES and ALL-EVENTS

Diamond	176 and above
Ruby	156 thru 175
Emerald	136 thru 155
Sapphire	135 and below

AVERAGE

ROSTERS

- A. All empty roster positions will be assigned a Challenge average of 220.
- B. Empty roster positions will receive a score of zero (0) for each frame.
- C. Unless a change in division is authorized by tournament management, all bowlers will be placed in the Diamond Division for any event where rosters are not

completed/submitted at least 14 days in advance of participation in the tournament.

7. DOUBLES and SINGLES ONLY ENTRIES

Doubles and Singles-only entries may be available beginning Feb. 5, 2024. Entering only Doubles and Singles is limited to the inventory available after sets are allocated to purchased teams. Entry fee is \$220 plus a \$20 processing fee.

8. ELIGIBILITY

All participants must be female, have current USBC Adult membership and be 18 years of age or older at time of competition. Captains must provide proof of membership for each bowler upon checking in. If current membership cannot be verified, a USBC Associate membership card must be purchased at the tournament site.

Note: *USBC national headquarters employees and tournament employees, their teams and/or doubles partners are not permitted to participate in the prize funds, brackets or awards programs at the Women's Championships. Employees are eligible to bowl for participation records and pinfall.*

9. EQUIPMENT

The manager on duty will handle any questionable circumstances.

BOWLING BALLS

Every bowler must have a bowling ball and shoes for her exclusive use. Each entrant will be allowed a maximum of eight bowling balls.

Only USBC-approved bowling balls will be allowed and MUST have the manufacturer's name, product name and serial number clearly visible.

Note: *The following bowling balls are prohibited for use: 900 Global Altered Reality, 900 Global Wolverine, Roto Grip UFO Alert, Storm Electrify Solid, Storm Phaze 4, Storm Trend 2.*

Bowling balls and drilling must meet all USBC specifications.

The specifications include a maximum of three (3) ounces of thumb, finger, side, top and bottom weight. Holes or indentations for gripping purposes shall not exceed five and shall be limited to one for each finger and one for the thumb, all for the same hand. Any thumb hole that is not used for gripping purposes during the delivery would be classified as a balance hole. Balance holes are not allowed. Balls without a thumbhole must have a scribed or engraved crosshair lines ("+") near the center of the palm to indicate the grip orientation. The ball must be delivered in the marked orientation (i.e., palm must cover the "+"). One vent hole is allowed for each finger and/or thumb.

All bowling balls are subject to inspection at the discretion of the USBC and/or designated tournament official. Any bowler found to be using any bowling ball that does not meet USBC specifications will be subject to disqualification.

PLUGS, INSERTS AND SLUGS

Removable devices must be approved and on the Approved Removable Bowling Ball Devices list. A ball plug or slugs may be used for the purpose of re-drilling a ball. When a slug is used, there must be a hole drilled completely through the slug leaving no void at the base. Plugs, inserts, tape and slugs may not extend beyond the surface of the ball.

EQUIPMENT ALTERATIONS

Altering the surface of a bowling ball using abrasives, cleaners or polish is prohibited during competition. In addition, no substance may be placed on the outer surface of the bowling ball. You are permitted to sand the surface of your bowling balls prior to certified competition; however, the use of abrasives is strictly prohibited once the first ball is thrown in competition. The outer surface of the bowling ball may only be cleaned with a dry towel once the bowler has begun competition.

Note: CAQ 18/6 – *Since the tournament is conducting doubles and singles concurrently, bowlers cannot alter the surface of the bowling ball (including sanding) between events. Competition is defined as any time teams or individuals are bowling for score.*

First offense: Individual is warned, and the ball is removed for the remainder of the series, match or block (doubles and singles is considered a block).

Second offense: Disqualification from the remainder of the event in which the violation occurred.

FOREIGN SUBSTANCES

No foreign substances can be applied to bowling shoes or approaches. This includes, but is not limited to rosin, powder, Easy-Slide, dry bags, slide stone, soap stone, polish, wax, alcohol and like products.

- First offense: Individual is warned.
- Second offense: Disqualification from the remainder of the event in which the violation occurred.

10. ETIQUETTE

A. **Devices** (headphones) – The use of an artificial device to listen to music or a broadcast is prohibited during competition.

B. **Conduct** - 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 or verbal abuse toward other persons.

C. **Pace of Play** – Please be ready to bowl when it is your turn, observing one-lane courtesy. This will help ensure your event is completed in the allotted time. *(See Tournament Rule 24 – Slow Bowling)*

D. **Gambling** - All forms of gambling are prohibited while bowling. This includes, but is not limited to, card playing, pushing coins, etc.

E. **Food and Drink** – Outside food and beverage is not permitted. Please keep all food and beverage items in the far back area of the settee.

11. FEES

Entry fee is \$55 per event per bowler. All-events fee (optional) is \$15 per bowler. Total cost for team, doubles, singles and all-events per bowler is \$180. Entries for all-events will be accepted any time prior to the start of practice before the bowler's first event.

A. Breakdown for team, doubles and singles: Prize \$29/Expense \$26

B. Breakdown for all-events: Prize \$13/Expense \$1/Team USA contribution \$1

Note: A \$20 processing fee is applied to each team registration (\$5 per bowler).

12. FORMAT

A. The tournament shall consist of a four-woman team event, doubles, singles and all-events in four divisions.

B. Three games will be bowled in each event.

C. Scores are recorded and ranked on a scratch basis (no handicap).

D. Team event will be bowled on the first day and doubles/singles will be bowled the next day.

E. During the doubles/singles events, doubles will be bowled first, then singles, in that order, without exception.

F. Entrants bowling doubles are automatically entered in singles, and entry fees for both must be paid.

G. An entrant may enter each event only one time.

13. FRIENDSHIP SQUADS

Friendship squads are available on May 23 and June 27, 2024. Bowlers who do not have a team, but wish to bowl team, doubles, and singles in the USBC Women's Championships, are invited to bowl on one of these squads.

- Entries are scheduled based on availability.
- Only entries of two bowlers will be accepted.

Friendship Squad entry forms are available at BOWL.com/WomensChamp or by calling 888-910-2695. Friendship Squad entry deadline is April 26, 2024 - new entries will not be accepted after this date.

14. LANE CONDITIONING

Lanes will be conditioned before all squads. The USBC will not disclose any oil pattern information until after the entire event has concluded. It is prohibited to discuss lane maintenance procedures or pattern information with tournament personnel during the tournament. Violators may be subject to disqualification. Questions or comments regarding lane maintenance must be directed to the tournament manager.

15. LOST SCORES

In the event a game (or portion of a game) is irretrievably lost in the scoring process, the game (or portion thereof) shall be re-bowled at a time and date determined by tournament management. Should the time and date of re-bowling be refused by the participant, USBC is liable only for the return of the entry fee paid for the event in which the loss occurred (including all-events entry if applicable).

16. No Present Rule.

17. PACERS

Pacers shall not be permitted in the tournament.

18. PARTICIPATION RECORDS

Every entrant who supplies proper information will have a participation record established. All bowlers must compete in the Women's Championships to receive participation and average recognition.

To receive credit for a year's participation, a bowler must extend a reasonable effort, as determined by tournament management, to complete at least one event.

19. PRIZE CHECKS AND AWARDS

A. 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 (including brackets).

B. Failure to furnish a social security number (U.S. citizens) or Individual Tax ID Number (ITIN for non-U.S. citizens) to USBC will result in a 30% tax reduction of the prize check.

C. Prize checks will be distributed within 30 days after the conclusion of the tournament (USBC Rule 309) unless permission is granted to extend by USBC tournament certification.

D. In the event a substitute will be used, a prize check will be issued in the same name of the substitute.

E. Any prize check requiring replacement within 90 days of tournament ending will require a \$25 replacement fee and \$50 thereafter.

F. Prize checks, or replacement checks, must be cashed by July 31, 2025, or prize winnings will be forfeited.

20. PRIZE RATIOS

All prize money will be returned 100%. Prize ratio will be at least 1:5 for team, doubles and singles and 1:8 for all-events.

21. PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS AND PAST CHAMPIONS

For the purpose of participation in the Women's Championships, PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS are defined as:

Any member having applied for membership in ANY professional bowling organization during the calendar year (Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2023) preceding the event, and up through their dates of their competition in 2024. All professional bowlers and past champions of national PBA/PWBA events will be eligible to compete in the Women's Championships, but only in the DIAMOND DIVISION, and they must follow these guidelines:

A. Not more than ONE bowler per team or doubles team, under the age of 60, who has won a PBA or PWBA national event (regardless of professional status at the time of the event); or won the USBC Queens or U.S. Women's Open from 2003 to 2014. OR

B. Not more than ONE bowler identified as a professional (see description of professional above) per team. AND

C. Not more than ONE bowler identified as a professional (see description of professional above) per doubles team.

D. Each such player shall be eligible to enter SINGLES and ALL-EVENTS (only in the Diamond Division).

E. Professionals and past champions are eligible for daily and event-long brackets. They also are eligible for any age-based products for which they qualify.

22. PROTESTS

A. Any protest or appeal concerning scoring must be made in writing stating the grounds of the protest or appeal and submitted to the USBC tournament office no later than 24 hours after the game has been played.

B. All foul protests must be filed before the squad is finished.

C. Any other protests must be filed in accordance with USBC Rule 329.

23. RE-RACKS

Each bowler is allowed a total of one re-rack per game. Tournament management may grant additional re-racks.

24. SLOW BOWLING

Teams/bowlers who receive a formal warning for slow bowling and/or have a history of not completing their competition on time may be assigned to the final squad of the day in future Women's Championships.

Including practice, competition should be completed in:

Team Event – 2 hours and 30 minutes

Doubles and Singles – 2 hours and 40 minutes

25. SMOKING

The use of tobacco products or any product intended to simulate the tobacco/smoking experience (e-cigarettes, hookahs, shisha, vape etc.) is prohibited during competition.

First offense: Warning

Second offense: Disqualification

26. SPECIAL NEEDS

Bowlers requiring aids, such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs, etc., or who are blind, must report this in writing when form is filed so special scheduling consideration can be arranged. Similar notice must be given if such a bowler with special needs is to be used as a substitute. Any bowler requesting a dress code exception must do so in writing and have a current written doctor's note.

27. SQUAD TIMES/ASSIGNMENTS

Team: 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Doubles & Singles: 9 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The times listed above are "BOWLING FOR SCORE" times.

Requests to bowl together must be made prior to competition via online registration or paper entry form. Online, enter a group code to bowl next to each other and/or a companion code to bowl on the same pair. Using a paper form, note the groupings and/or pairing on the form. Entries received without a group or companion code will be randomly scheduled.

Tournament management has the right to reschedule lane assignments or times, including the number of bowlers per pair, up to the time of bowling for score. Reasons for rescheduling of lanes may include, but are not limited to, mechanical breakdowns, bowling unopposed, technical problems and booking conflicts.

Note: *All squad times are assigned/scheduled in real time when payment is received. Times are not guaranteed from year to year. Special events or circumstances may require squads be conducted at times other than the times listed above.*

28. SUBSTITUTES

- A. No one may bowl in this tournament except those originally entered or such replacements authorized by the team captain or captain's appointee.
- B. Any bowler replaced once competition has begun must use the higher of the two averages.

29. VIDEO POLICY

All participants agree to abide by USBC Women's Championships Video Policy, which can be found on BOWL.com. Any participant appearing in, recording, publishing or sharing video clips deemed by USBC to affect the integrity of the tournament may be subject to disqualification and suspension.

30. OTHER RULES

- A. Prior to participation in the USBC Women's Championships all bowlers must read and sign the Acknowledgement of Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability document.
- B. Bowlers agree to follow all directives issued by federal, state and local authorities designed to ensure public safety regarding gatherings/events.
- C. Teams and/or individuals arriving late shall begin play and the scores shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled. Entrant will receive a zero for all frames missed.
- D. In the event a team or doubles pair is bowling alone on a pair of lanes, each frame shall be completed on one lane before the next frame is started on the adjoining lane.
- E. All USBC tournament rules will apply, unless otherwise stated.
- F. Tournament management has the authority to make decisions regarding anything not covered by these rules.

TERMINATION/RELEASE CLAUSE

To the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Bowling Congress: We, by our captain and agent, hereby make application to participate in the 2024 USBC Women's Championships events listed and tender the entry fees required, therefore. We warrant that we are USBC members. We agree to abide by all tournament and playing rules and regulations prescribed by USBC, including all provisions set forth on this form. We specifically agree for ourselves, and any replacements chosen by or for us if we are not eligible for participation and/or cannot bowl in the Women's Championships, then our prize, bowling and expense fees shall be forfeited, and all sums tendered by us as prize, bowling and expense fees may be retained by USBC as liquidated damages. The entrants whose names appear hereon, or their authorized replacements, hereby agree that the USBC, its officers and agents shall be liable only to the extent of returning entry fees, less expenses, if and when these entrants 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 or resulting therefrom, fires, strikes, labor difficulties, terrorism or threats of terrorism, or other causes beyond the control of USBC. We further agree that USBC may use our names and likenesses (including video) for promotional purposes at no cost to us and with no fees being paid by us. The entrants whose names appear on this application, and/ or their authorized replacements, hereby agree that the USBC, and its officers and agents, shall not be liable for any injury resulting from participation in bowling in the Women's Championships, absent willful or gross negligence on the part of USBC.