



2026 California USBC Association
YOUTH SCRATCH CHAMPIONSHIPS
STATE RULES



1. This tournament is certified by the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) #05666 and shall be governed by USBC rules.
2. Competition is open to all 2025-26 USBC Youth members that are bowling in a California USBC certified youth league and not under suspension. League substitutes are allowed to participate if it is their only California USBC certified youth league. Entries must be submitted through California USBC certified youth leagues.
3. League level qualifying dates are **NOVEMBER 3-16, 2025**. Advancement from league is a one-time entry. If an individual qualified and cannot participate in this competition, replacements will be eligible based on order of finish from the league level qualifying. **Replacements must advance from the same league and same division based on order of finish.**
4. **Advancement ratio from LEAGUE competition to STATE competition (all divisions) is at least ONE (1) FOR EVERY FOUR (4) ENTRIES per division, per league, per window including last-place ties.** The base number for each division is the number of certified individuals that were present at least one week to participate. In all cases at least one person per division shall advance. The advancement ratio shall be applied uniformly to all eligible divisions.
5. Advancers out of the league level must remain in the division they qualified in during all subsequent levels. If a bowler advances out of league level in more than one state, the bowler must declare one state to continue competing before the next competition level. Participation in any level of competition past the league level in more than one state will result in automatic disqualification. **All bowlers that choose to "opt up" MUST COMPLETE an "OPT UP FORM" PRIOR to league competition.**
6. **Entry Fees:**

<u>Division</u>	<u>U8 & U10</u>	<u>U12 & higher</u>
Expenses/Awards/Scholarships.....	\$20.75	\$36.25
Lineage.....	\$14.25	\$23.75
Handicap Scholarship.....	\$5.00	\$5.00
TOTAL	\$40.00	\$65.00
7. **Entry closing date is JANUARY 28.** Tournament fees and official worksheets must be submitted by this date. No refunds allowed after the closing date unless approved by the Tournament Director. **Bowling center checks and money orders must be made payable to CUSBC.** Write "YSC" and "center name" in memo. Any returned checks are subject to a \$35 penalty fee and must be paid with money order by **FEBRUARY 10. ONLY ONE PAYMENT PER CENTER.**
8. Divisions are based on the participant's age. Athletes must compete in their proper age division in all levels of competition. **Competition shall be conducted in the following divisions:**
 - **BOYS / GIRLS U8 DIVISION: BIRTHDATE IS 8/1/2017 OR LATER**
 - **BOYS / GIRLS U10 DIVISION: BIRTHDATE IS 8/1/2015 THRU 7/31/17**
 - **BOYS / GIRLS U12 DIVISION: BIRTHDATE IS 8/1/2013 THRU 7/31/15**
 - **BOYS / GIRLS U14 DIVISION: BIRTHDATE IS 8/1/2011 THRU 7/31/13**
 - **BOYS / GIRLS U16 DIVISION: BIRTHDATE IS 8/1/2009 THRU 7/31/11**
 - **BOYS / GIRLS U18 DIVISION: BIRTHDATE IS 8/1/2007 THRU 7/31/09**
9. State Finals competition will take place at **BOWLERO FRESNO**, 6450 N Blackstone Ave, Fresno, CA 93710, (559) 431-3711 on **MARCH 14-15, 2026. U8 / U10 Squad time: Saturday 8:30am. U12 / U14 / U16 / U18 Squad times: Saturday 2pm and Sunday at 8:30am.**
10. **ALL BOWLERS MUST REGISTER THEIR SQUAD TIME ONLINE AT CALUSBC.COM FEBRUARY 1-21. Those who fail to register their squad time on time will be assigned their squad time.**
11. **U8 / U10 Format:** Three games total on the same pair of lanes. **U12 / U14 / U16 / U18 Format:** Five games total moving pairs after each game. Total scratch pinfall will determine the champions for each division.
12. **DRESS CODE: BOWLING JERSEYS OR POLO SHIRTS ONLY.** Jersey collars must be hemmed (crew, v-neck, polo or quarter zip). All jerseys must have finished sleeves. Male participants are required to wear slacks with front zipper and button at waist. Slacks must not contain drawstring waists or elastic bottoms. Female participants are required to wear slacks, skirts, capris, skorts or walking shorts. All skirts, capris, skorts or walking shorts must be below the competitor's fingertips when they are standing with their arms hanging loosely at their side. Hats, jeans and yoga pants are not permitted. No electronic devices allowed in the bowler's area. Tournament management must approve any/all exceptions prior to the event. If the dress code is deemed unacceptable, the participant will be required to change immediately. If the participant is unable to change, they will be removed from competition for that day. Re-scheduling will be accommodated only when possible.
13. No replacements permitted once the squad has started. Replacements may be used for scheduled bowlers not present at least 45 minutes prior to the squad time as stated in Rule 2. **Replacements must be from the same center, league and division based on their order of finish. Rule 322b will be waived.**
14. Tardy bowlers shall start in the frame currently being bowled. Missed frames shall be credited with a zero. Bowlers not present to bowl when it's their turn will receive a zero for that frame.
15. Only bowlers and Tournament Officials are permitted in the settee area.
16. **Practice is prohibited** in the hosting center during the weekend of competition (Saturday night).



2026 California USBC Association
YOUTH SCRATCH CHAMPIONSHIPS
STATE RULES



17. **AVERAGE VERIFICATION FOR HANDICAP SCHOLARSHIPS:**

- Highest USBC certified league average (min. of 15 games) **AS OF MARCH 1, 2026. FALL LEAGUE SHEETS ENDING BEFORE JANUARY 1 ARE ALSO REQUIRED IF NOT ALREADY POSTED ON BOWL.com.** If none,
- Highest USBC certified league average as of the tournament date (min. of 15 games; sheet required). If none,
- Highest USBC certified league average from 2024-25 (min. of 15 games). If none,
- Scratch (175 for U8-U10 divisions; 210 for U12-U18 divisions)

BOWLERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR VERIFYING THEIR OWN AVERAGES. If a certified "sport/challenge" league average is the youth's only verifiable average, it will be adjusted per the chart in the USBC Rulebook to determine the correct entering average.

18. Scratch and Handicap scholarships will be awarded based on the number of participants with a ratio of at least 1:8 per division, with a major fraction thereof. **Handicap is 100% of 210 for the U12-U18 Divisions and 80% of 175 for the U8-U10 Divisions.** Awards and Scholarship fees shall be returned 100%. All ties will be split equally. Scholarships will be held with USBC SMART under account #10717, (800) 514-2695 x8292. Special Olympic winners may opt to receive a gift card (maximum of \$300) in lieu of SMART scholarships if they are not attending college or trade school. A CUSBC waiver must be signed to process the gift card.
19. **U8 & U10 Champions will earn a FREE entry (\$50 value) into the California Youth State Championships held on June 20-21, 2026 at Arlington Lanes, Riverside.** In order to redeem this award, the winner must pay and enter with a full team of their choice and also bowl the singles event. The entry will be reimbursed after the tournament is completed and participation is verified. This berth is applicable only to the four Champions will be voided if they cannot attend or do not enter with a full team entry.

20. **California is allocated 8 berths into the Junior Gold Championships. The first-place winners (or highest finishing athlete who has not already advanced) of the U12, U14, U16 and U18 divisions for both Girls and Boys will advance to the 2026 Junior Gold Championships (July 11-18, 2026, Minneapolis, MN).** They must be USBC Junior Gold members to advance to the Junior Gold Championships. Bowlers without a current Junior Gold membership must purchase a Junior Gold membership prior to May 15. USBC will waive the \$250 (U18/U16), \$200 (U14) and \$150 (U12) entry fee for these athletes. These athletes will compete for additional scholarships available to all athletes at the Junior Gold Championships as well as other prizes and awards. All U.S. citizens are vying for a spot on USBC Junior Team USA 2027 to represent the United States in national and international competition. If the U12, U14, U16 or U18 Division Champion is unwilling to become a Junior Gold member, they will not advance to the Junior Gold Championships. However, the athlete will still retain the state scholarship, but the berth to the Junior Gold Championships will be awarded to the next eligible athlete. Eligible advancers must agree to bowl in the Junior Gold Championships, or, failing to do so, agree to waive all rights. Replacements will be selected based on the order of finish in their division at the state level. In the event that a qualifier needs to be replaced and there is a tie to determine who will advance to the Junior Gold Championships, the highest game from the qualifying scores will determine who will advance. If the high score for each is the same, the next subsequent high score will be used until the tie is broken. Replacements will incur all costs associated with changing the airline ticket, if applicable. **The California USBC Association will provide the U12, U14, U16 & U18 Champions (8 total) a travel stipend valued up to \$500 and a Strike12Creations.com jersey.** The jersey and stipend are offered only for the champions attending the Jr Gold Championships and is non-transferrable. If the champion does not attend the Junior Gold Championships, the jersey and stipend will be forfeited. Arrangements will be made by each athlete within stated guidelines and parameters from the California USBC Association. **Junior Gold berth winners are not confirmed until they receive confirmation from USBC.**

21. **ONLY A DRY TOWEL FOR CLEANING MAY BE USED DURING COMPETITION. ELIMINATION OF BALANCE HOLES:** Bowlers may have up to five holes for gripping purposes and all must be used on every delivery. If only fingers are used, the thumb hole must be plugged and an "X" marked for the palm position. Any bowling ball that does not meet USBC specifications will subject the bowler to disqualification of all tournament scores. We reserve the option to do random spot checks and we may be reported to check equipment by another bowler. **Visit BOWL.com to download the Non-conforming Bowling Ball List.**
22. Food and drinks are permissible in the back area only. **DISQUALIFICATIONS:** Non-alcoholic beer may NOT be consumed while participating in the tournament. No tobacco or smoking products permitted by participants. Conduct derogatory to the best interest of youth bowling in conjunction with USBC will result in immediate disqualification (Refer to rule 17D). Adults consuming alcohol must remain in the lounge or in back concourse area.
23. **NO OUTSIDE FOOD ALLOWED INSIDE THE CENTER.** Please be respectful of the hosting center's rules and guidelines.
24. All matters not covered by these rules and regulations shall be determined by the California USBC Youth Committee. The National USBC Youth Scratch Championships Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any participant.

Tournament Director: Lynn Matsubara, California USBC
3673 Industry Ave #102, Lakewood, CA 90712
(562) 449-4527 • E-Mail: info@calusbc.com

Web: CALUSBC.com