

# 2026 UTAH STATE YOUTH SCRATCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. This tournament is certified by the Utah State USBC and shall be governed by USBC rules and USUSBC rules adopted.
2. Advancement ratio from league competition to the state competition is at least 1 (one) for every 1 (one) entry per division. The base number for each division is the number of league members that would have participated in that division. In all cases at least one person per division shall advance. The advancement ratio shall be applied uniformly to all eligible divisions.
4. 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 completion level. Participation in any level of competition past the league level in more than one state will result in automatic disqualification.
5. Competition will take place at Bear River Bowling Center, Tremonton, UT. The U8 and U10 divisions will bowl at 9:00am on 3/14/26. The U12 and U14 divisions will bowl at 11:00am on 3/14/26. The U16 and U18 divisions will bowl at 9:00am on 3/15/26.
6. Paper tournament entry form containing participant's name, address, parent/guardian phone number, parent/guardian email, date of birth, and division, must be submitted to the tournament director or postmarked by Midnight, Monday, March 9, 2026. Please make sure this information is complete. If the entry is not complete the entry may be sent back. **Online entries close March 11, 2026. Entries will be accepted until these dates or until the tournament is full.**
7. Divisions are based on the participant's age. Athletes in the U12, U14, U16 and U18 must compete in their proper age division in all levels of competition. Youth who are in the U8 or U10 division may move up to the U12 division, if preferred, in attempt to qualify for Junior Gold. All competition is SCRATCH and shall be conducted in the following divisions:  
 U8 GIRLS & BOYS – Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2017 or later  
 U12 GIRLS & BOYS – Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2013 – 7/31/2015  
 U16 GIRLS & BOYS – Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2009 – 07/31/2011  
 U10 GIRLS & BOYS – Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2015 – 7/31/2017  
 U14 GIRLS & BOYS – Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2011 – 7/31/2013  
 U18 GIRLS & BOYS – Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2007 – 07/31/20
8. The U8 & U10 divisions will bowl three (3) games on **Saturday, March 14, 2026**, staying on the same pair of lanes all three games. Winners will be determined by total pin count. Divisions U12 and U14 will bowl four (4) games of qualifying on **Saturday, March 14, 2026**. The U16 and U18 will bowl four (4) games of qualifying on **Sunday, March 15, 2026**. **For all of the U12-U18 divisions:** bowlers will skip one pair of lanes to the right after each game. After the completion of these 4 games, the field will be cut to the top 50% or 8 bowlers (whichever is greater). The advancers will bowl 2 additional games. They will skip 1 pair to the right after each game. All pins will carry over. When all the advancers have finished the additional games, the top four or five players from each division, based on total pins, will participate in a stepladder final. If a division has less than 10 entries, the stepladder finals will have 4 participants. Any division with 10 or more entries will cut to the top 5 bowlers for the stepladder finals. Bowlers waiting to participate in the stepladder finals will be given time to warm up on a pair of lanes determined by the Tournament Director. At the start of the stepladder these same bowlers will be given two practice balls on each lane. A tie for last place after the qualifying competition will be broken by a one-game roll-off on a pair of lanes determined by the tournament director. Should a tie still exist, a ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> frame roll-off shall be used to break the tie (Refer to rule 326a). Any ties during the stepladder shall be broken by a ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> frame roll-off. **The competition for each division will be completed on the same day as qualifying.**
9. **Optional Handicap Division** – A Handicap option for each division will be available for an additional \$5 to all participants in this tournament provided the following provision has been met: A league-standing sheet showing current average as of March 7, 2026, with at least 12 games, should be submitted before the youth bowls. If a standing sheet is not submitted by March 14, 2026, the bowler will only be allowed to bowl scratch. For the U12, U14, U16 and U18 bowlers, this optional division only includes the first 4 games of competition. There is NO additional bowling for the optional handicap division. Scores bowled during their regular event will have the handicap base: 100% of 230 for boys and girls added to those regular scores. Bowlers will remain in the same division as the scratch competition. All funds collected will be returned in the form of scholarships.

10. Entry fees:

Division	Lineage	Expenses	Scholarship	Total	Optional Handicap	Total with Optional
U8 - U10	\$ 12.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 35.00
U12 – U14 - U16 - U18	\$ 24.00	\$ 11.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 45.00

Scholarship monies paid with entry will be determined based on total number of entries received per division and calculated at a rate of \$10.00 per entrant to determine total scholarship monies available per division. Scholarships awarded will come from unassigned funds held in the Utah State SMART account #8549. All checks returned by banks, credit unions etc. will be charged \$35 plus bank fees.

11. Dress Code: USBC National youth dress code will be **strictly** followed. Entrants are expected to wear suitable attire. Examples of acceptable attire – Collared and Mock collar shirts, USBC Youth Jersey, Dress slacks, Skirts and Jeans in good condition. Shorts, skirts, and skorts with finished bottoms (NO FRAYED HEMLINES) that extend to the knee when worn at the waist 3-3½ inches above the knee. Examples of prohibited attire include but are not limited to – Head gear – (for medical reasons only), T-shirts, tank tops, halter tops, bare midriffs, spaghetti straps tops, etc., workout attire, leggings, bib overalls, jeans that are not neat, clean or in good condition (NO TORN JEANS). Attire depicting alcohol, tobacco, gambling, an illegal substance, or inappropriate language/gestures may not be worn in accordance with Rule 301B. Bowlers will be required to change if attire is deemed inappropriate by tournament management or designee. Tournament management or designee decisions will be final. **There are no exceptions.** For questions on appropriate attire, contact the Utah State USBC Youth Open Tournament on site office or email to [utahstateusbc@utahbowling.org](mailto:utahstateusbc@utahbowling.org) or visit our website at [www.utahbowling.org](http://www.utahbowling.org).
12. Electronic devices will be allowed in the settee area during competition. If it is determined that use of an electronic device is causing delay of play, the bowler will be asked to put the device away.
13. Only bowlers and tournament officials shall be permitted in the settee area. Parents & coaches are not allowed in settee area during tournament competition.
15. Competitors shall be allowed 10 minutes of practice time on their starting pair.
16. Bowlers arriving late shall begin play and score shall count beginning with the frame being bowled. Missed frames shall be credited with a zero. **Frames may not be made-up.** If a bowler is not present to bowl when it's their turn, they will be credited with a zero for that frame.
18. Errors in scoring or general playing rules must be made to the tournament director no later than the start of the next block or 30 minutes after the completion of the competition. Questionable errors shall be decided upon by the tournament director. All other protests must be confirmed in writing to the tournament director within 72 hours of the infraction. Under this rule, each protest must be specific in itself.
19. Symbolic awards will be given to first place finishers for each division.
20. *The first-place winners 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, in 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 their membership prior to June 1, 2026. USBC will waive the U18, U16, U14 and U12 entry fee for these athletes. These athletes will compete for additional scholarships available to all athletes at the 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, and U18 Division Champion is unwilling or unable to become a USBC Junior Gold member they will not advance to the Junior Gold Championships. However, the athlete will retain the state scholarship and the berth to the Junior Gold Championships will be awarded to the next eligible athlete.*
22. 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. Replacements will incur all costs associated with changing the airline ticket, if applicable. If the eligible advancer decides not to attend the Junior Gold Championships, any stipends offered will be forfeited however, any scholarships earned at the state level will be retained. 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 high game from the qualifying scores will determine who will advance. If the high score for each is the same, next subsequent high score will be used until the tie is broken.
23. All matters not covered by these rules and regulations shall be determined by the Utah State USBC and the Tournament Director. The National USBC Youth Scratch Championships Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any participant.

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