



2024-2025 League Level Handbook



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To: League Official/Youth Program Director
From: Gary Brown, Senior Director of Short Duration Tournaments
Pepsi USBC Youth Championships
Date: July 2024
Subject: 2024-2025 Pepsi Youth Championships

Thanks for your help in providing the first step of the 2024-2025 Pepsi Youth Championships. The tournament is sponsored by Pepsi Co. and conducted by the United States Bowling Congress. This event is an opportunity for your area's athletes to become involved in a premier nationwide tournament for youth bowlers.

To date, these Youth Championships have awarded more than \$9 million in scholarships through the Scholarship Funds Program. It is estimated that at least \$800,000 in scholarship will be awarded this season through the competition. By conducting the league level competition, you are giving your bowlers an opportunity to help finance their college education.

The Pepsi Youth Championships begins at the league level. The tournament is open to *all* USBC Youth bowlers, USBC Youth membership brings many unique opportunities for athletes:

- ✓ Compete with other youth in a nationwide tournament.
- ✓ Compete with no extra cost at the league level of competition.
- ✓ Compete with other youth of the same age for awards and scholarships.
- ✓ Win a berth to the 2025 Junior Gold Championships if they are the U12, U15 or U18 Champion at the state/zone finals and meet the membership requirement for the Junior Gold Program. There, they will compete for additional scholarships available to all athletes at the Junior Gold Championships.

Please remember: An athlete is not required to belong to the Junior Gold Program to bowl in the U12, U15 or U18 divisions. If an athlete does win the U12, U15 or U18 Division and he/she is not a Junior Gold Program member, he/she must purchase membership prior to the 2025 Junior Gold Championships to compete. If he/she is unwilling to purchase membership, the athlete keeps any awards given from the state/zone but will not be allowed to advance to the Junior Gold Championships and an alternate will be chosen.

League qualifying MUST be conducted for all USBC Youth members! This handbook contains the information you will need to conduct the league level competition. The "2024-2025 League Level Rules" must be followed and supplied to each athlete. The rules can be stapled to the league worksheet and passed through the league, so this process can be done quickly and inexpensively.

USBC and your state/zone Pepsi Youth Championships Tournament Committee thank you for your support, dedication and cooperation. If you have any questions, please refer to the listing of state/zone tournament directors contained in this league handbook, or contact me at the address below, by phone at 817-385-8426 or e-mail tournaments@ibcyouth.com.



TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW AND SCHEDULE

The Pepsi Youth Championships begins with league level qualifying. Bowling centers with certified USBC Youth leagues are automatic qualifying sites. Since qualifying begins during league level, there is no entry fee at this level. League level qualifying will be between Oct. 1, 2024 and Feb. 28, 2025. **Please note: The league level window includes October to accommodate high school leagues. Please contact your state/zone Pepsi tournament director if your league needs to take advantage of a window earlier than the one specified by your state/zone.**

Qualifying competition is held in divisions based on the bowler's date of birth as of the dates below:

⇒U8 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2016 or later	⇒ U8 Girls
⇒U10 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2014 thru 7/31/16	⇒ U10 Girls
⇒U12 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2012 thru 7/31/14	⇒ U12 Girls
⇒U15 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2009 thru 7/31/12	⇒ U15 Girls
⇒U18 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2006 thru 7/31/09	⇒ U18 Girls

Winners in these divisions will advance to the state/zone competition with some earning scholarships.

The U12, U15 and U18 Division Champions from the state/zone finals will receive a berth from IBC Youth into the 2025 Junior Gold Championships. IBC Youth will waive the \$200 (U18), \$150 (U15) and \$100 (U12) entry fee for the U12, U15 and U18 Division Champions. There, the bowlers will compete for additional scholarships available to all athletes at the Junior Gold Championships. **All advancers must be Junior Gold program members or be eligible and purchase a membership prior to the championships.**

YOUR STATE/ZONE PEPSI TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DATES

OCT. 1, 2024-FEB. 28, 2025

League level qualifying will take place.

Qualifying window dates are determined by the state/zone Pepsi Tournament Committee and listed in the rules and information. Consult BOWL.com for the Pepsi Tournament Director in each state/zone or see this handbook if you have not received the rules for your specific state/zone.

MARCH 1-APRIL 30, 2025

Center and sectional qualifying will take place (if applicable in your specific state/zone). Contact the Pepsi Tournament Director for your state/zone in case of questions (see BOWL.com for the list of directors).

MARCH 1-MAY 15, 2025

State/zone competition will take place.

MAY-JUNE 1, 2025

USBC sends confirmation e-mails to state/zone advancers to Junior Gold Championships.

JUNE 1, 2025

Deadline for USBC's receipt of information on state/zone advancers to Junior Gold Championships.

JULY 2025

2025 Junior Gold Championships

JULY 2025

Bowling.com Youth Open Championships



2024-2025 LEAGUE LEVEL RULES

(ATHLETES MUST SEE THESE RULES AND CHOOSE THEIR OWN DIVISION)

1. The Pepsi Youth Championships is certified by the United States Bowling Congress and governed by USBC rules.
2. Competition is open to all 2024-2025 USBC Youth members. To compete, a bowler must be a regular member of a certified USBC league and not be under suspension at the time of qualifying. League substitutes are allowed to participate if it is their only USBC Youth league. USBC Collegiate members are eligible if they are 2024-2025 USBC Youth members, bowl in a USBC Youth league and have not violated USBC Rule 400.
3. All USBC Youth members in good standing are eligible for the league level competition. There is no entry fee at the league level. Bowling centers having 2024-2022 USBC certified leagues are automatic league level qualifying sites.
4. **Participants must be aware of each competition level in the state/zone and all associated rules, fees and deadlines. These items are contained in the specific state/zone rules from the State/Zone Pepsi tournament director. (State director information can be found on BOWL.com.)**
5. Competition will be conducted in divisions based on the participant's date of birth as listed below. Participation in the wrong age division will lead to automatic disqualification. Bowlers must stay in the given division in that particular league throughout the entire window.

⇒U8 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2016 or later	⇒U8 Girls
⇒U10 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2014 thru 7/31/16	⇒U10 Girls
⇒U12 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2012 thru 7/31/14	⇒U12 Girls
⇒U15 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2009 thru 7/31/12	⇒U15 Girls
⇒U18 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2006 thru 7/31/09	⇒U18 Girls

*One way to think about this is....If a bowler turns 9, 11, 13 or 16 during the bowling season he/she would be in the next highest age division.

***There is no requirement of Junior Gold membership to enter U12, U15 or U18 Division!**

6. In states offering a side handicap division, the qualifying window average will be the current league average as of the first date of competition (no minimum number of games). Participants must remain in that division for the duration of that window. Bowlers are eligible to compete in a different division in a different league during the league level of competition.
7. League level qualifying will be conducted in certified leagues during the qualifying window(s) between Oct. 1, 2024 and Feb. 28, 2025. Each state/zone Pepsi tournament committee decides the qualifying window dates. Consult state/zone rules for the specific dates. **If needed, the state/zone Pepsi tournament director can grant changes in the qualifying dates to individual bowling centers.**
8. Qualifying scores must be bowled during regularly scheduled league play. **Pre-bowled or post-bowled scores may not be used as scores for advancement purposes.** Advancement to the next competition level will be from the league level. *NOTE: Due to restrictions, the Pepsi Youth Championships National Tournament Committee is granting each state the ability to allow pre-bowled and post-bowled scores for the 2024-2025 season.*
9. Participants can attempt to qualify in any state/zone where they hold a 2024-2025 USBC Youth membership card.

However, the bowler can only advance once using the following criteria:

- A. In the event a bowler qualifies in more than one league in the same division, the bowler must advance from the league in which the highest series was bowled. For identical qualifying scores, the member will advance from the league where the first score was bowled.
- B. If a bowler qualifies in different leagues from multiple divisions, the bowler must select one division they will compete in before subsequent competition.
- C. If the bowler advances out of league level in more than one state/zone, the bowler **must** declare one state/zone to continue competing in before the next competition level.
- D. Participation in any level of competition past the league level in more than one state/zone and/or more than one division will result in automatic disqualification.

Note: Advancers remain in the division they qualified in during the league level in all subsequent competition. If there is a tie for the last-place qualifier in a division, both will advance to the next level of competition.

STATE/ZONE LEVEL

- 11. The top one (1) bowler in the U12, U15 and U18 divisions for boys and girls at the state/zone competition with the highest scratch score (plus applicable bonus pins) will earn a berth to the Junior Gold Championships. Bowlers are not required to have a minimum average or be a Junior Gold Program member to enter the U12, U15 or U18 Divisions at the local level of qualifying for the Pepsi Youth Championships. However, to receive the berth, the bowler must be a USBC Youth Standard member and Junior Gold program member no later than June 8, 2025. **If the winner is not eligible for the championships, he/she will still retain all awards from the state/zone but the next eligible bowler will receive the berth to the Junior Gold Championships.**
- 12. Advancers to the Junior Gold Championships 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/zone 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 high 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.
- 13. **If a bowler has already earned a berth into the Junior Gold Championships and wins either the U12, U15 or U18 division in in the Pepsi Youth Championships, they would receive any scholarship and/or stipend assigned to their finishing position. The spot into the Junior Gold Championships will go to the next eligible athlete in line by order of finishing position.**
- 14. Failure to abide by any rules and regulations will lead to disqualification from this event. The Pepsi Youth Championships National Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any participant.
- 15. The Pepsi Youth Championships National Tournament Committee will decide all matters not covered by these rules and regulations, or USBC rules and regulations. All decisions are final.

**ALL BOWLERS MUST SEE AND
UNDERSTAND THESE RULES**

GUIDELINES FOR LEAGUE OFFICIALS/ PROGRAM DIRECTORS



You should receive a mailing from your state/zone Pepsi Youth Championships tournament director that contains the league level qualifying dates, rules, advancement levels and formats for each competition level. USBC has verified and approved these rules, dates and formats. Entrants advancing to the next level need to know about any required fees and deadlines.

The following are general guidelines to help you conduct the league level competition. The packet and information from your state/zone Pepsi tournament director will have specific information. **This event is provided for all USBC Youth members -- do not disappoint your bowlers. USBC Youth members deserve your assistance!**

It is **not** mandatory to use the provided league worksheets. It is acceptable to produce the required information on your computer through a league secretary program. CDE Software produces league secretary software that contains the Pepsi Youth Championships forms. Please enter all information accurately. If you want to purchase software, please contact the company directly: CDE Software at (206) 937-8069 (cdesoftware.com). **Each athlete is required to read the league level rules and agree to the division in which they have been placed for this tournament.**

COMPETITION SET-UP

- 1. By Oct. 1, 2024 you should receive the information from your state/zone Pepsi tournament director. If you have not received the information, contact the Pepsi tournament director for your state/zone. See the listing of Pepsi tournament directors on the Pepsi page of bowl.com.
- 2. Locate your qualifying window dates in the information sent by the state/zone Pepsi tournament director. **If the dates conflict with other league or center obligations, please notify your state/zone Pepsi tournament director. He or she has the authority to change these dates for you.**

STEP-BY-STEP PLAN FOR ALL QUALIFYING WINDOWS

- 1. The week before the league level competition begins, inform the bowlers and parents that the league will be participating in the Pepsi Youth Championships.
 - ⇒ **Make copies of the League Level Rules included in this handbook and pass them out to the bowlers and parents. All athletes must read and be aware of these rules.** ⇐
- 2. Locate the league worksheet in this handbook. Make a worksheet for each division. "Division" corresponds to the tournament's age and gender divisions: Boys Divisions of U8, U10, U12, U15 and U18. Girls Divisions of U8, U10, U12, U15 and U18. All divisions will be SCRATCH.
- 3. **Before the window begins**, ask each league member to choose the division he or she wishes to bowl in and enter their name on the corresponding worksheet. **Divisions are based on bowler's age.** Make sure you check the ages to be sure the bowlers are participating in the correct divisions. Bowlers can participate in a different division for each league in which they are members, regardless of center. However, the bowler must remain in that division for that league during the entire window.
- 4. After the first league session, enter the scratch series for each participant in the "first week" row of the league worksheet. **If a member is not physically present this week, list his or her score as absent/"0." Pre-bowled and post-bowled scores are not allowed.**

NOTE: *If your state/zone Pepsi tournament director selected a one-week qualifying window skip to Step #8.*

- 5. During the second week, remind league members they are competing in the Pepsi Youth Championships qualifying competition. This week is a second chance to bowl in a qualifying series. Include the same number of participants as in the first week. After the league session, enter the scratch series again on the League Worksheet. **Reminder: If a member is not physically present this week, list his or her score as absent/"0." Pre-bowled and post-bowled scores are not allowed.**
 - 6. Determine each participant's highest series and circle that score. **Do not add the first-week and second-week scores together. Each week is a separate opportunity for the bowler to post a score.** The bowler's highest series is the score used for qualifying. A participant does not need to be present both weeks to qualify.
 - 7. Using the scores you have just circled, rank the bowlers by best qualifying score. Using the advancement ratio set by your state/zone Pepsi tournament director, determine the bowler(s) who advance in that division in that league. After determining who has qualified, notify the winners. (Please inform the participants who qualified bowling only two games that they will bowl at least three games at the next competition level.) It is the winner's choice to advance to the next level and pay all applicable fees.
 - 8. On the league worksheet, show the bowlers who have qualified and accepted or declined to advance to the next competition level. **Remember, each division per league must advance at least one person regardless of the ratio and the number of bowlers participating in that division.**
 - 9. Since bowlers were given several qualifying opportunities, some may have advanced in more than one division and/or more than once in the same division. **A participant can only advance once into the next competition level regardless of the ways he or she qualified. A bowler automatically is disqualified if he or she attempts to advance more than once.** If a participant should win in multiple qualifiers, the following guidelines will decide where the bowler advances from:
 - 1. If qualified in more than one state/zone, choose one state/zone.
 - 2. If qualified in more than one division, choose one division.
 - 3. If qualified in the same division during both windows, he or she advances from the first window.
 - 4. If a bowler qualified in more than one league in the same division during a window, he or she must advance from the league in which the highest series was bowled.
- Remember some of your bowlers might bowl in different bowling centers. Check to make sure they are only advancing from one center. **In all cases, once a bowler has made the choice to advance from a certain state/zone and division, he or she forfeits advancing in other states/zones, centers and divisions.**
- 10. Once you have figured out how many bowlers will advance per league and who they are, enter the information on the bottom of the league level worksheet. Complete one form per division per league.
 - 11. After completing your league worksheet, make copies for your files and send the originals to your state/zone Pepsi tournament director. Your state/zone rules will state the deadline for these forms and if any other information, forms or fees need to be sent.

THANK YOU!

Sample League Worksheet



Per division per league - reproduce as necessary

Division: U18 Boys Submitted by: Tammy Smith
 Bowling center: Bowlerville Lanes Submitter's address: 9797 S. 97th St.
 League name: Saturday Bowlerville Juniors Bowlerville, WI 19977
 Window dates: November 4 & 11 Telephone number: (979) 799-7979

ATHLETE'S NAME	DOB MM/DD/YY	INITIALS ACCEPT DIVISION	WEEK	SCRATCH SERIES	QUALIFIED	
					RANK	ACCEPT
Black, Alan	9/26/05	AB	1st wk	575	2	NO
			2nd wk	Absent		
Miller, Kevin	10/12/05	KCM	1st wk	400	6	
			2nd wk	415		
Smith, Tom	8/25/05	TS	1st wk	450	5	
			2nd wk	Absent		
Jones, Darryl	10/7/06	DJ	1st wk	500	3	YES
			2nd wk	520		
Rogers, Mark	8/26/06	MR	1st wk	300	8	
			2nd wk	350		
Martin, Pete	11/08/06	PMM	1st wk	493	4	YES
			2nd wk	480		
Grant, Frank	2/25/08	FG	1st wk	400	7	
			2nd wk	397		
Williams, Bob	12/10/07	BW ^o	1st wk	625	1	YES
			2nd wk	580		
Johnson, Chris	9/17/05	CJ	1st wk	320	9	
			2nd wk	300		

* All USBC Youth members are eligible (i.e. mentally challenged bowlers over the age of 18 are eligible for all levels of competition)

SUMMARY SAMPLE - (per division per league - see state/zone rules for ratio and fee)

** See specific state/zone rules for exact ratios and fees **

Division	# of Entrants	Ratio	Advancers	Total Submitted
U18 Boys	9	1:3	3	\$45.00

League Worksheet



Per division per league - reproduce as necessary

Division : _____

Submitted by: _____

Bowling center: _____

Submitter's address: _____

League name: _____

Window dates: _____

Telephone number: _____

ATHLETE'S NAME	DOB MM/DD/YY	INITIALS ACCEPT DIVISION	WEEK	SCRATCH SERIES	QUALIFIED	
					RANK	ACCEPT
			1st wk			
			2nd wk			
			1st wk			
			2nd wk			
			1st wk			
			2nd wk			
			1st wk			
			2nd wk			
			1st wk			
			2nd wk			
			1st wk			
			2nd wk			
			1st wk			
			2nd wk			
			1st wk			
			2nd wk			

* All USBC Youth members are eligible (i.e. mentally challenged bowlers over the age of 18 are eligible for all levels of competition)

SUMMARY - (per division per league - see state/zone rules for ratio and fee)

** See specific state/zone rules for exact ratios and fees **

Division	# of Entrants	Ratio	Advancers	Total Submitted



ATTENTION ALL TOURNAMENT MANAGERS

Please make sure you have the following items before your Pepsi Youth Championships begin.

1. Have you certified your Pepsi Youth Championships?
 - a. You may certify online at www.bowl.com and under the TOURNAMENTS tab you will find the "Tournament Certification" link.
 - b. Your Certification number is: _____
2. Do you have your USBC SMART Account number?
 - a. If no, you will want to contact SMART at 817-385-8292
 - b. Your SMART Account number is: _____
3. Do you understand the "Age Chart" for placing bowlers in the proper division?
 - a. This information can be found on page 2 of the League Level Handbook and page 11 of the Tournament Directors Handbook.
4. Are you using a center that pours Pepsi for your Regional/Zone and/or State Finals?
5. Did you read and understand the Pepsi Youth Tournament Rules?
6. Have you submitted your tournament rules to IBC Youth Tournaments for approval?
 - a. They should be sent to tournaments@ibcyouth.com no later than September 15th.
7. If you have any questions after reading the handbook please contact IBC Youth Tournaments to get a better clarification of the rules at 817-385-8426.



PEPSI YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS WAIVER FORM

The Pepsi Youth Championships allows parents/players to request a WAIVER to allow their player to “play up” into an older group. Requests and any approval granted are for the current seasons’ tournament only. Requests are by written application only by the parent or legal guardian. While the Pepsi Youth Championships does not recommend that players play up, the tournament leadership does recognize that there may be a number of factors, including but not limited to, size, maturity, experience, and skill levels that may influence a players’ decision to play up.

PLEASE PRINT

PLAYER LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ USBC ID# _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Current Age Division: (Circle one) U8 U10

Requested Age Division: (Circle one) U10 U12

I, the parent/guardian of the above-minor child, hereby request my child to compete in the division requested above. I understand that this is not the age division he/she was originally assigned by the Pepsi Youth Championships tournament rules. I am aware that my child will be competing against older and potentially more physically developed players with potentially higher level skills, and I, therefore, recognize the added risks to my child’s health and safety, as well as to my child’s emotional well-being. In signing below, I accept these risks and accept all and every liability and responsibility stemming from such risks as my own, and I absolve the Pepsi Youth Championships, its affiliated clubs, board members, volunteers, and associated personnel against any claims. I also acknowledge that I am making this decision on my own initiative and have not been requested to do so by any outside influence.

It is the policy of the Pepsi Youth Championships that all players compete at a level they are capable of, both physically and developmentally.

This form must be submitted to the Youth Pepsi State Coordinator before participation in the local qualifier. No changes to a division may be made once a bowler has started a qualifier.

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____