

# RULES

## STATE LEVEL

### VIRGINIA



1. This tournament is certified by the United States Bowling Congress (#05133) and shall be governed by USBC rules.
2. Dates of LEAGUE LEVEL qualifying are November 09 – 22, 2025 and January 25 – February 7, 2026. Advancement from LEAGUE is a one-time entry. If an individual who qualified cannot participate in the STATE LEVEL competition, replacements will be eligible based on order of finish in LEAGUE LEVEL competition.
3. Advancement ratio from LEAGUE LEVEL competition to the STATE LEVEL competition is at **least one (1) for every seven (7) entries per division, or major fraction thereof, including last-place ties**. Advancement from LEAGUE LEVEL competition to the STATE LEVEL will be based on scratch scores. 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 the STATE LEVEL. If a bowler advances out of LEAGUE LEVEL in more than one state/zone, the bowler must declare one state/zone to continue competing before the next competition level. Participation in any level of competition past the LEAGUE LEVEL in more than one state/zone will result in automatic disqualification.**
5. Competition will take place at: Bowlero Mechanicsville, 7317 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, Virginia. Telephone Number: 804-559-2600. Dates are April 18, 19, 25, 26; May 2 and 3, 2026. Squad times will be 10:00am and 2:00pm each day. *Lanes will not be dressed between squads.* Squads may be cancelled at the discretion of the tournament director.
6. Entry closing date is 19 March 2026. Tournament entry form containing qualifiers' names, averages and USBC ID numbers; coaches' addresses and telephone numbers must be submitted to the tournament director by this date.
7. Divisions are based on the participant's date of birth.

<input type="checkbox"/> U08 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2017 or later	<input type="checkbox"/> U08 Girls
<input type="checkbox"/> U10 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2015 thru 7/31/17	<input type="checkbox"/> U10 Girls
<input type="checkbox"/> U12 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2013 thru 7/31/15	<input type="checkbox"/> U12 Girls
<input type="checkbox"/> U14 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2011 thru 7/31/13	<input type="checkbox"/> U14 Girls
<input type="checkbox"/> U16 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2009 thru 7/31/11	<input type="checkbox"/> U16 Girls
<input type="checkbox"/> U18 Boys	Bowlers whose birthdate is 8/1/2007 thru 7/31/09	<input type="checkbox"/> U18 Girls

**Athletes must choose the division in which they will compete. Athletes must be Junior Gold Members or be eligible and buy membership prior to advancement to the Junior Gold Championships. Competition shall be conducted in ALL divisions.**

8. The tournament format shall be:
  - **Divisions U8, and U10:** Bowlers will bowl three (3) games on the same pair of lanes.
  - **Divisions U12, U14, U16, and U18:** Bowlers will bowl six (6) games on the same pair of lanes.
  - Total pinfall only will determine winners in each above division.
  - **Optional Handicap divisions will be available to all STATE LEVEL entrants in each of the same age divisions.** Scratch scores from above will be combined with handicap to determine winners in each handicap division.

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9. Entry fees are: **U8 and U10 Divisions:**

Lineage	\$13.50
Expenses	\$ 0.50
Scholarships	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24.00</b>

**U12, U14, U16 and U18 Divisions:**

Lineage	\$27.00
Expenses	\$ 2.50
Scholarships	\$10.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>

**Optional Handicap Event**

Entry fees are: **U8H and U10H Divisions:**

Scholarships	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>

**U12H, U15H, and U18H Divisions:**

Scholarships	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>

There is NO advancement from the STATE LEVEL to the National Junior Gold Tournament in the optional handicap divisions.

Scholarship fees shall be returned 100% to the bowlers. **Scholarships will be held in SMART.**

**Account Number: 8551.**

10. All bowlers must wear suitable attire. **No hats/caps/headgear/electronic devices allowed. This includes headphones, ear buds, etc. Bowling shirts must have sleeves and must meet the waist band of the bowler's shorts, skirt or slacks. Collared shirts are suggested, but are not required. If wearing shorts or skirt they must be at least half way to the knee – no short shorts. No smoking by guests or athletes in the bowling center in accordance with Commonwealth of Virginia law.**
11. No substitutes will be permitted **once athletes have started tournament play.** However, replacements may be used for bowlers not present ten (10) minutes prior to the squad time as stated in Rule 2. **Replacements must be from order of finish from LEAGUE LEVEL (i.e. the same window, same league and same center as the “no-show” bowler. They must follow the order of advancement within that window/league.)**
12. Bowlers entering the optional handicap events shall use their **highest certified league average, minimum of 21 games, as of February 1, 2026.** If the minimum has not been met, the bowler will present a league standing sheet closest to the first date of tournament competition with a minimum of 12 games. Bowlers will bowl scratch if none of the above is met. League averages that are challenge or sport averages will be adjusted using the appropriate USBC rule for average adjustment. **Averages must be verified by a league standing sheet.**
13. Handicap shall be 100% of the difference between the bowler's average and 200 for the U8H and U10H divisions. Handicap shall be 100% of the difference between the bowler's average and 230 for the U12H, U14H, U16H and U18H divisions.
14. Competitors shall be allowed ten (10) minutes of practice time on their starting pair.
15. If no replacement has been made, bowlers arriving late shall begin play and the score shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled. Missed frames shall be credited with a zero. **Frames may not be made-up.** A bowler not present to bowl when it's their turn will be credited with a zero for that frame.
16. Only bowlers and tournament officials shall be permitted in the settee area.
17. Ties for positions involving scholarships will remain; scholarship awards will be combined and divided equally among the tying bowlers. Ties for advancement to the National Junior Gold Championships will be broken by comparing scores of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-game set (games 4, 5 & 6) from the STATE LEVEL competition with the higher set score advancing to the National Junior Gold Championships.
18. Claims for 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 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

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hours of the infraction. Under this rule, each protest must be specific in itself.

19. Symbolic awards will not be given.
20. Scholarships will be awarded as follows: 1st place in each division plus additional awards based on one award for every 10 STATE LEVEL entries per division, or major fraction thereof. Scholarship awards will be given in ALL divisions; scratch and optional handicap. **No National scholarship funds will be used in the optional handicap events.**
21. **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. They must be USBC Junior Gold members to advance to the Junior Gold Championships. Bowlers without a current Junior Gold membership must purchase a USBC Junior Gold membership prior to May 15, 2026. IBC Youth 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 USBC 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. Virginia Youth Scratch Championships will provide partial payment of travel expenses based on available funds, with a maximum of \$300.**

**If an athlete cannot advance or has won a spot in the Junior Gold Championship through a previous qualifier, the athlete retains his/her scholarship, but the berth will be granted to the next eligible bowler. Also, if an athlete has won a spot through a previous qualifier, he/she retains the stipend. If the athlete already has a stipend, they would retain the higher stipend amount, they are NOT allowed to earn multiple stipends. The stipend, in this case, would go to the next eligible athlete.**

**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.**

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 will be retained.
23. All matters not covered by these rules and regulations shall be determined by the Virginia Youth Scratch Championships Tournament Committee. The National Youth Scratch Championships Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any participant.

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