

Montana USBC Youth Tournament Rules

(NOTICE: No ball surface changes can be made once scoring has started. See rule #14 of Montana Tournament Standing Rules on website).

- 1. Tournament Format** – The tournament is USBC certified and the events shall consist of a four (4) person Team event, two (2) person Doubles and an individual Singles event. Bowlers may participate in Team, and/or Doubles/Singles.
- 2. Team Composition** – In the Team event, teams will be comprised of four (4) youth. In the Doubles event, teams will be comprised of two (2) youth. Three (3) games will be bowled in each event, with the exception of those bowlers bowling in Division 5, who will bowl 2 games in each event. **Any member eligible to bowl in Division 5, who chooses to bowl in Divisions 1-4, will also be eligible to enter any Division 5 events separately.** Lineup shall be the same as shown on the entry forms. All Events is at no charge.
- 3. Handicap** – The tournament will be handicapped with 90% of 225 per person per game in each event.
- 4. Prize Ratio** – The trophy ratio will be at least one (1) to five (5) or major fraction thereof for the Team, Doubles and Singles events; the trophy ratio will be at least one (1) to five (5) or major fraction thereof for All Events. Trophy fees will be returned 100%. Divisions with less than five (5) entries may be combined with another division. Games shot for the handicap division will be used for the corresponding scratch division. One All Event plaque will be awarded in each division for scratch. If an individual qualifies for both, the scratch award will take precedence and the bowler will be awarded the scratch All Events plaque only. One plaque will be awarded for overall scratch high game and series, boy and girl.
- 5. Tournament Eligibility (USBC Rule 300c)** – All entrants must be youth members whose dues have been paid to the national association no later than March 1, 2023 and must reside in Montana and/or bowl at a certified Montana bowling center. Those who turn 18 before August 1, 2022, and are still in high school will be allowed to enter, but must be SafeSport certified
- 6. Team Captains (USBC Rule 304)** – Team captains are to have their team members present no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled squad time. Proof of current USBC membership must be provided if requested.
- 7. Prize Fund Distribution (USBC Rule 309)** – A prize list will be posted on the website, bowlmontana.com. Plaques will be mailed to association managers for distribution.
- 8. Entry Closing (USBC Rule 310b)** – Entries must be received no later than the last scheduled shift on April 23, 2023. Additional shifts will be added if needed, but not past the last shift of the tournament.
- 9. Submitting Entries (USBC Rule 311)** – Entries will be scheduled according to requests in the order received, if possible. The tournament schedule will not be changed by the tournament director except for emergencies. Confirmation of squad times and dates will be made via email, if available, or by regular mail to the person designated on the entry form. **ANYONE RESERVING 4 TEAM SPOTS OR MORE ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE ALL ENTRY FORMS AND FEES TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR BY OR BEFORE MARCH 4, 2023. Online Registration is Preferred for all entries.**
- 10. Entry Refunds (USBC Rule 314)** – Entry fees will not be refunded except when an alternate time, other than requested, has been assigned and the entering team has been notified of the new time. The entering team has ten (10) days from the date stamped/transmitted on the confirmation letter to refuse the alternate time.
- 11. Multiple Participation (USBC Rule 315)** – A bowler may participate in the Team event unlimited times but at least two (2) players must be different every time. Entrants who sign up for doubles must bowl in the singles event. Entrants are allowed to bowl in doubles and singles up to 3 times, but must change partners each time and also must bowl singles each time. A bowler may cash **only once** in singles. **Exception:** Bowlers may sub one time for an absent bowler in doubles without having to enter singles again. If a bowler was not previously scheduled to bowl in the tournament, he/she is eligible to bowl singles. First Score in each event will count towards all events score.
- 12. Entering Average (USBC Rule 319a)** – The previous season's average and the highest March 1st certified league average with a minimum of twelve (12) games for bowlers bowling in Division 1-4, and a minimum of ten (10) games for bowlers bowling in Division 5 must be submitted and the **higher of the two will be used.** If a participant does not have the required games as of March 1st, nor a previous season's average, he/she may use their current average up to the date bowled providing the minimum number of games is met and average is verified in writing by a coach or association manager. All others must bowl scratch.
- 13. Assigned Averages (USBC Rule 319b)** – A youth participant without an entering average will be assigned an average of 225 in divisions 1-4. Participants in division 5 without an entering average will be assigned an average of 140.
- 14. Lineup Changes (USBC Rule 324a)** – Substitutes are allowed. Substitutions must be made to the tournament director as early as possible, but in any case, no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of assigned squad time. Average verification must accompany substitutions. In emergency situations, the substituting bowler must take the lineup place of the original bowler and will not be required to reimburse the original bowler's entry fee.
- 15. Scoring Errors (USBC Rule 327b)** – Errors in scoring must be reported to the tournament director within 48 hours of the completion of the squad bowled.
- 16. Protests and Appeals (USBC Rule 329)** – The MT USBC Board of Directors and the Tournament Manager shall have the power to hear and act on all protests and appeals arising from or under construction of the rules of the MT USBC Youth Tournament. The joint committee shall also decide any questions not covered by tournament rules. All protests and appeals concerning eligibility or general playing rules must be confirmed in writing to the tournament manager before tournament plaques are determined.
- 17. Special Feature Event** – Only bowlers who pay the \$2.00 fee for Scratch Doubles/Singles Event will be eligible for this event. This event is based on the total scratch score of the doubles and singles events. First scores in each event will count toward total score. **THIS IS AVAILABLE IN EVERY DIVISION (including Division 5).** The top finisher in this event in each division will receive a scholarship; the amount will be based on the number of entries in each respective division.
- 18. Scholarships** – All Events Scholarship Event is based on Team, Doubles and Singles scores combined both scratch and handicap. First scores bowled in each event will count toward the All Events score. There are five divisions in this event, based on the bowler's average (divisions 1-4) or age (division 5). Scholarships in the amounts of \$150 for 1st place, \$100 for 2nd place and \$50.00 for 3rd place will be awarded in all 5 divisions both scratch & handicap. *Funds for these scholarships will come from unassigned SMART funds and are not part of the entry fee.*
- 19. Dress Code** - Youth participants will not wear apparel or use bowling equipment depicting alcohol, tobacco, gambling, an illegal substance or inappropriate language/gestures during competition. Knee length shorts are allowed, appropriate dress must be worn, no hats. All final decisions regarding attire will be at the discretion of the tournament director. Penalty: First offense will result in a verbal warning and apparel change or removal of equipment. Failure to comply will cause the bowler's scores to be disqualified and the bowler to be removed from the competition.

ONLINE ENTRY: Go to www.bowlmontana.com. Then go to Events & Tournaments tab. Then select Register for a MTUSBC Tournament. Complete your entry form as instructed and select the date(s) and shift(s) as needed that are available. That should be done immediately to ensure shift confirmation. Pay online using credit card. There is no upcharge. This is the **HIGHEST PRIORITY and PREFERRED** method available to submit your entry form.