



**COLLEGIATE**



# 2023-2024 COLLEGIATE RULEBOOK

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# MEMBERSHIP RULES

Intercollegiate rules are adopted and enforced by the United States Bowling Congress.

## USBC Collegiate Membership Eligibility Rule – Rule 100 - Collegiate

1. Membership in USBC Collegiate is open to all individuals currently enrolled in a higher education institution.
2. Bowlers who are under suspension from USBC membership are ineligible for membership in USBC Collegiate.

## Membership Year – Rule 101 – Collegiate

The USBC Collegiate membership year shall be from August 1 to July 31 of the following year. USBC Collegiate membership shall expire on July 31 of the season in which membership was issued or when a member is no longer enrolled in a higher education institution.

## Membership, How to Obtain – Rule 102 – Collegiate

1. To become a member in USBC Collegiate, an intercollegiate team will complete the USBC Collegiate Application for Membership.
2. Each student-athlete will complete a national USBC Adult or USBC Youth membership application through the online membership program.
3. The coach/advisor will submit:
  - a. the USBC membership application for each member of the team and pay the required fees by using the online team membership program (see Rule 103 (1-2) for fee structure). Or,
  - b. the USBC Collegiate Application for Membership, USBC membership applications and required fees to the USBC Collegiate national office (see Rule 103 (1-2) for fee structure).
4. USBC Collegiate will pay national dues for each student-athlete for the respective membership.
5. To participate in:
  - a. Adult USBC Standard Competition, the applicable state and local dues must be paid.
  - b. Youth USBC Standard Competition, the applicable service agreement fees must be paid.
6. NON-MEMBER PARTICIPATION FEE – Eligible student-athletes who wish to compete in the Intercollegiate Singles Championships Sectional Qualifier, but do not hold a USBC Collegiate membership, shall pay a \$25 (U.S. dollars) participation fee (per tournament) to the tournament manager. Presentation of USBC Collegiate membership or application for membership is required prior to competition.
7. Purchasing a USBC Collegiate Membership allows the member to compete in all USBC National Events.

## USBC Collegiate Membership Fees – Rule 103 – Collegiate

USBC Collegiate membership entitles student-athletes to participate in all certified intercollegiate conferences and tournaments. All USBC Collegiate membership fees (college and individual) shall be paid prior to participating in a certified intercollegiate tournament/conference. USBC Collegiate membership fee requirements are:

1. Payment of \$350 (U.S. dollars) per intercollegiate team when using the online membership program. This provides individual certification of an eight-person team roster. An additional \$75 processing fee will be assessed to those teams submitting checks to USBC.
2. Payment of \$35 (U.S. dollars) per student-athlete for any student-athletes beyond a roster of eight when using the online membership program. An additional \$5 processing fee per student-athlete will be assessed to those teams submitting checks to USBC.

A team will not earn ranking points from an event if it uses a non-certified participant.

## Branch Campus – Rule 104 – Collegiate

An institution with multiple campuses may combine to bowl as a single campus under the following criteria:

1. Prior to competing, the institution must provide USBC Collegiate a list of all branch campuses wishing to combine.
2. Eligibility form must clearly identify the campus for each student-athlete. If a branch campus has five (5) or more individuals, they must compete as a separate campus.

## ELIGIBILITY RULES

Only certified competition involving more than one school shall be considered intercollegiate competition. In order for an intercollegiate team to be considered for the Sectional Qualifiers or USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships competition, all participating team members must meet or exceed USBC Collegiate rules. USBC Collegiate defines first semester eligibility as August 1 – December 31 and second semester eligibility as January 1 – July 31.

## Credit Hours – Rule 200 – Collegiate

All student-athletes (graduate and undergraduate) shall, at the time of competition, be registered as full-time students and currently attending classes which:

1. Shall not be less than 12 semester or quarter undergraduate hours for participating undergraduate student-athletes.
2. Shall not be less than six actual semester or quarter hours for participating graduate students.

NOTE: New student-athletes cannot compete until the first day of classes of the term (semester/quarter).

## Grade Point Average – Rule 201 – Collegiate

Student-athletes must maintain a minimum cumulative overall grade point average as determined by the college they are representing in intercollegiate competition which cannot be less than:

1. A 2.0 GPA is required at institutions on a 4.0 scale.
2. A 3.0 GPA is required at institutions on a 5.0 scale.
3. Any USBC Collegiate certified event that includes members outside that organization must use the USBC Collegiate GPA requirements.

## Satisfactory Progression Rule – Rule 202 – Collegiate

Student-athletes who have participated in any certified intercollegiate competition prior to the current season must complete the following minimum academic progress requirements for continuing education:

1. Semester system requirements: Prior to second season of participation – 24 hours minimum. Prior to third season of participation – 48 hours minimum. Prior to fourth season of participation – 72 hours minimum.
2. Quarter system requirements: Prior to second season of participation – 36 hours minimum. Prior to third season of participation – 72 hours minimum. Prior to fourth season of participation – 108 hours minimum.
3. Should a student-athlete's first semester enrolled in a higher institution occur during the Spring semester, the Satisfactory Progression requirements will be prorated.

In order for graduate student-athletes to remain eligible, the student-athletes are required to successfully complete a minimum of 12 graduate credit hours (semester system) or 18 graduate credit hours (quarter system) since the previous season of participation.

## Transfers – Rule 203a – Collegiate

A student-athlete may request a transfer by:

Submitting their name in the USBC Collegiate Transfer Portal following the policies outlined in the Collegiate Recruitment Guide.

After a request is made and the student-athlete has been accepted by another institution, the following must be submitted and approved prior to participation:

1. The USBC Collegiate Transfer Request Form along with an official transcript from the original institution. The transcript must show the student-athlete meets or exceeds:
  - a. GPA criteria listed in USBC Collegiate Rule 201.
  - b. Satisfactory Progress criteria listed in USBC Collegiate Rule 202.
  - c. Graduating student-athletes may provide a copy of their diploma in lieu of an official transcript.
2. Documentation from the school that the process outlined in the Collegiate Recruitment Guide were followed.

USBC will approve a one-time transfer request provided the foregoing process was followed.

Additional requests will be reviewed by USBC.

## Transfer Limits – Rule 203b – Collegiate

1. A student-athlete cannot request a transfer for the current season if they have participated in any collegiate competition during that season.
2. A transfer student who was suspended or was declared ineligible for USBC Collegiate competition must serve the period of suspension before intercollegiate participation shall be permitted.

## Length of Eligibility – Rule 204 – Collegiate

Student-athletes (undergraduate or graduate) have a total of four years of eligibility.

1. Student-athletes attending two-year institutions are eligible for their first two years of collegiate eligibility or until they receive a degree, whichever comes first.
  - a. Student-athletes who receive a degree from a two-year institution are eligible to transfer immediately.
2. Student-athletes attending four-year institutions have a total of four years of eligibility.
3. Student-athletes are permitted a maximum of four years of intercollegiate bowling eligibility.
4. Graduating student-athletes will be eligible to participate in the Sectional Qualifiers or Intercollegiate Team Championships with less than full-time academic status providing they are taking the required credit hours needed for graduation in their final term.
5. A student-athlete who is graduating prior to January 1 becomes ineligible on December 31 of the current bowling season, unless the student-athlete is enrolled as a graduate student at the same school for the next term (semester/quarter).
6. Student-athletes who graduate between the end of the USBC Collegiate Regular Season and the Intercollegiate Team Championships will be permitted to compete in the Intercollegiate Championship Tournament.
7. A student-athlete who gains eligibility between the end of the USBC Collegiate Regular Season and the Intercollegiate Team Championships will be permitted to compete in the Intercollegiate Championship Tournament.

## Use of Eligibility – Rule 205 – Collegiate

1. Student-athletes rolling a ball in intercollegiate competition (NCAA, NJCAA, NAIA, etc.) use a year of eligibility.
2. Student-athletes participating while academically ineligible in intercollegiate competition use a year of eligibility.
3. Hardship cases involving medical/injury reasons can be submitted to the USBC Collegiate office in writing if the student-athlete has competed in two events or less prior to January 1.
4. Participation as an individual in a singles competition (not on an intercollegiate team or in an intercollegiate team competition) does not constitute a year of eligibility.
5. The participation of pacers in intercollegiate competition is specifically prohibited in USBC Collegiate certified events.

## Eligible Roster Limits – Rule 206 - Collegiate

A school is limited to a maximum of:

25 eligible student-athletes on a men's team first semester

25 eligible female student-athletes on a women's team first semester

An additional three student-athletes can be added to each team on the second semester eligibility form. A team may not have more than 28 eligible student-athletes for the second semester.

Once a student-athlete is approved for competition by USBC Collegiate, they may not be replaced on the program's active roster for any reason.

In the event a school violates this rule, they will be disqualified from any event(s) bowled in which the violation occurred.

## Professional Membership – Rule 207 - Collegiate

Amateur Eligibility – Certified intercollegiate activities are considered amateur events. Individuals who are considered “professionals” pursuant to Professional Membership policy are not eligible to bowl in intercollegiate events.

1. An individual who is classified as a touring and/or resident professional by a professional bowling organization is not eligible for USBC Collegiate membership. If a bowling organization's title uses the word professional, individuals applying for membership or holding membership, or competing in an event as a professional in that organization shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition.
2. An individual who has ever held membership or competed as a professional in any professional bowling organization may appeal to USBC Collegiate for a waiver a minimum of one year after the expiration of his or her professional membership.
3. USBC Collegiate will consider reinstatement of amateur status only if the individual has competed as a professional in five (5) or fewer professional events.

# SUSPENSIONS/REINSTATEMENT

## Penalty for Unfair Tactics – Rule 300-Collegiate

USBC Collegiate members, or non-members applying for USBC Collegiate membership, violating the provisions of this rule shall be liable for suspension of or denial of USBC Collegiate membership privileges:

1. Attempting to gain an unfair advantage by directly or indirectly tampering with lanes, bowling pins and/or bowling balls so they no longer meet USBC specifications. Penalty – Forfeiture of game or games, including awards and/or suspension of membership.
2. Placing the game of tenpins in jeopardy of unfair criticism by the use of dishonest, disreputable tactics in connection with the game of bowling.
3. Using an assumed name or bowling under the name of another person scheduled to bowl in a certified conference or tournament. Penalty – Forfeiture of all games in which such a student-athlete was used. All involved and found guilty shall be liable for suspension of membership.
4. Conduct derogatory to the best interest of intercollegiate bowling. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. Violation of any code of conduct policy.
  - b. Use of tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco, while competing in conference or tournament play.
  - c. Use, possession or distribution of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs.
5. Misuse of any funds entrusted to them as a conference officer, team captain or tournament official.
6. Participation in bowling activities in violation of USBC Collegiate eligibility rules.

## Suspension Action – Rule 301 - Collegiate

USBC Collegiate has the authority to make administrative decisions regarding eligibility of student-athletes, coaches or schools upon notification of any rule violations.

## **Ineligible/Suspended Bowlers – Rule 302 – Collegiate**

A student-athlete(s) suspended from membership in USBC Collegiate shall be ineligible to participate in all certified conferences and tournaments or to hold any conference or tournament office. Academically ineligible student-athletes are not eligible to participate in USBC Collegiate certified events.

1. The use of an academically ineligible or suspended student-athlete shall result in a forfeit of points of any event in which the student-athlete was used. Eligible student-athletes can use their individual scores for determining awards.
2. Academic ineligibility from USBC Collegiate membership does not affect USBC eligibility.
3. Protests and appeals must be in writing stating the grounds for the protest or appeal. A protest involving eligibility must be filed with USBC Headquarters, Attention: USBC Collegiate within 48 hours of the infraction.
4. If an ineligible athlete is used in competition, the team will receive no team ranking system points. The competition final standings will remain and the TRS points will not be recalculated.

## **Reinstatement of Membership Privileges – Rule 303 – Collegiate**

The procedure for reinstatement is as follows:

1. The reinstatement request shall be in writing and set forth in detail the charge(s) against the member(s) and the USBC or USBC Collegiate rule(s) involved.
2. The reinstatement request shall be signed by the person(s) making the request and filed with USBC Collegiate.
3. The reinstatement request will be forwarded to the necessary parties for their comments. These comments must be received within 10 days from the date of notification.
4. USBC will make an administrative decision once all responses received within the time frame are reviewed.
5. The status of applicants shall remain unchanged until individuals have been advised of reinstatement by the USBC Collegiate office.

## **Request for Waiver – Rule 304 – Collegiate**

Student-athletes may request a waiver of eligibility rules when circumstances beyond their control result in an unwarranted forfeiture of eligibility. A request for waiver shall be submitted in writing to the USBC Collegiate office and will be considered in the same manner as an appeal or protest. The waiver must be requested prior to participation. A request for a waiver will be considered for the following reasons:

1. Credit hours – A class repeated due to an unsatisfactory initial grade may be used only once in meeting satisfactory progress requirements.
2. Remedial or non-credit courses may be used to satisfy minimum academic progress requirements provided the institution considers the courses to be prerequisites for specific degree credit courses and gives those classes the same equivalent as others at the institution.

## **Appeals of Administrative Decisions – Rule 305 – Collegiate**

Student-athletes suspended from or denied USBC Collegiate membership may file a written application for reinstatement of membership privileges with USBC.

Reinstatement cannot be granted until student-athletes have concluded the specified period of ineligibility, during which time they have refrained from any type of bowling competition in violation of USBC Collegiate rules.

USBC Collegiate's administrative decisions may be appealed to the USBC Legal Committee. The appeal must be filed in writing within 10 days of the date of the letter notifying them of the administrative decision. A statement of the reasons for the appeal must be included. The appeal would be forwarded to USBC Headquarters, Attn: USBC Rules Department.

# INTERCOLLEGIATE EVENTS

## Intercollegiate Tournament Eligibility for USBC Collegiate Certification – Rule 400 – Collegiate

The tournament manager can establish eligibility for USBC Collegiate certified tournaments under one of the following conditions, and the eligibility rules must be carried on the entry forms and/or posters:

1. Limit entry to USBC Collegiate members only.
2. Limit entry to USBC Collegiate members and eligible non-members who pay a tournament participation fee of \$25 prior to bowling.

Only student-athletes who are USBC members before participation in the tournament are eligible for USBC awards.

## Baker Competition – Rule 401 – Collegiate

The following guidelines must be adhered to in order for tournament formats using the Baker System of scoring to be certified:

1. Traditional games (team, doubles and singles) are eligible for awards.
2. A team that bowls a Baker System 300 game is eligible to receive a school award. Each school is eligible for one award per season.
3. Five Baker games shall equal one team game.

ABC Secretary Emeritus Frank Baker developed the Baker format. In this format, the leadoff bowler rolls the first and sixth frames, the second player rolls the second and seventh frames, the third player rolls the third and eighth frames, the fourth player rolls the fourth and ninth frames, and the fifth player rolls the fifth and 10th frames, including any extra deliveries in the 10th frame.

**Note:** Baker games may occur at any point in the event format. For award purposes, however, they should not interrupt any three-game series.

## Mixed Team – Rule 402 – Collegiate

Default gender classification for USBC Collegiate competition will be determined by birth certificate. Transgender individuals who transition from male to female may petition for a change in gender classification by writing to USBC Headquarters. USBC will follow the process outlined in USBC's Gender Classification Policy.

Intercollegiate teams will be classified as follows:

1. Men's Team – Five or more individuals who either identify as cisgender male or who do not identify as cisgender female. Individuals who compete on a men's team must remain on a men's team throughout their collegiate career unless they petition for a change in gender classification by writing to USBC Headquarters and such request is approved.
2. Women's Team – Five or more individuals who identify as cisgender female.
3. Mixed Team – One to four members of one cisgender and one or more members of the opposite cisgender.

Schools that have five or more of each cisgender at any point during the season are required to compete as separate men's and women's programs and pay the required membership fees.

A school cannot certify a mixed team once the school has a recognized USBC Collegiate men's and women's program during the current season. A mixed team from a school that has men's and women's teams will not be recognized by USBC Collegiate and are not eligible for TRS points. Mixed teams are classified as men's teams and placed in the men's division in USBC Collegiate certified competition. A school with a USBC Collegiate mixed team shall be included in the men's all-events standings for that tournament. An individual competing on the mixed team shall be included in the men's all-events standings for that tournament.

A school's season begins the date USBC Collegiate receives the first membership application form and continues until July 31.



## Team Rosters – Rule 403 - Collegiate

Only three men's teams and three women's teams with maximum rosters of eight different eligible student-athletes each may represent an institution during a competition day. Prior to the start of any competition, a school must declare one team as its varsity team. All other teams competing from the school will be designated as junior varsity teams. If a school only has one team competing in the event, that team will be assigned to the varsity division. The varsity is the only team that will earn points toward postseason qualification.

Failure to designate a varsity team prior to the start of competition will result in that school not receiving Team Ranking System points for the competition. If the team in the varsity division uses an ineligible athlete during the competition, the team will not receive points for that event.

Prior to the start of each game, a team must designate a starting lineup of no more than five players, with any remaining players on the roster being available as substitutes for that game. For a traditional team game, each individual game score shall be credited entirely to the player who started the game. A substitute shall not be credited with a game score.

A tournament or conference may not utilize a format that permits a team to start more than five players in a game, and then drop one or more individual game or block scores.

In the event a school violates this rule, they will be disqualified from any event(s) bowled in which the violation occurred.

## Substitutions – Rule 404 - Collegiate

A player, once removed, cannot return to bowl for the remainder of the game. A maximum of three substitutions are permitted during each game, only one of which is allowed in the 10th frame.

## Awards – Rule 405 - Collegiate

An intercollegiate tournament certified by USBC Collegiate shall only provide awards and similar mementos that are compatible with traditional college requirements as to what constitutes an acceptable award.

Monetary prizes may be offered in the form of scholarship, provided the money is given to the school in the name of both the intended recipient and the college and is not funded through the entry fee from the tournament. It is unacceptable to award cash prizes directly to a student-athlete in certified USBC Collegiate events.

## Headsets – Rule 406 - Collegiate

CD players, iPods, cell phones and headsets cannot be worn by athletes during intercollegiate bowling competition in the settee area.

## Bowling Equipment – Rule 407 - Collegiate

Participants will not wear apparel or use bowling equipment depicting alcohol, tobacco, gambling, illegal substance(s) or inappropriate language/gestures during competition. **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.

# INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS AND ITC SECTIONAL QUALIFIERS

USBC Collegiate shall adopt rules from time to time deemed appropriate with respect to the Intercollegiate Team Championships and Sectional Qualifiers. Any such rule must comply with the USBC Playing Rules. The Intercollegiate Team Championships and Sectional Qualifiers are certified by the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) and shall be administered by USBC Collegiate and applicable USBC rules and guidelines.

## Team Requirements – Rule 500 - Collegiate

Submitting the entry forms and accepting the berths to the ITC and Sectional Qualifiers means that all coaches and athletes agree to abide by all event and competition rules and policies. Each athlete and coach must sign and submit to the event manager a Rules Declaration Form. Any event and/or competition violation could result in disqualification.

## Bowling Equipment – Rule 501 - Collegiate

All teams competing in the Sectional Qualifiers and the Intercollegiate Team Championships must submit a ball registration form prior to the start of competition. All equipment must meet USBC specifications. The following bowling balls are prohibited for use: 900 Global Altered Reality, 900 Global Wolverine, Roto Grip UFO Alert, Storm Electrify Solid, Storm Phaze 4, Storm Trend 2.

The number of bowling balls a student-athlete can use in the Intercollegiate Team Championships and Sectional Qualifiers is limited to five (5) bowling balls, including practice and competition. Once the equipment registration is completed, no additional equipment may be added. A bowling ball may only be listed once on a ball card. A student-athlete can only use equipment listed under his/her name.

A bowling ball may only be replaced if the tournament manager declares that the bowling ball is damaged beyond repair. A replacement bowling ball can be submitted to the tournament manager, who will have that ball checked, approved and listed on the Equipment Registration form before it is used in competition. A bowling ball may be repaired if approved by the tournament management. Penalty for first offense: Individual and team are warned. Penalty for additional offenses: Bowler is disqualified from the event and all game(s) in which the violation occurred are forfeited.

## Removal of Bowling Equipment from Center – Rule 502 - Collegiate

Bowling ball(s) submitted on the ball card cannot be removed from the center. Any bowling ball(s) removed from the center cannot be used for the remainder of the competition.

## Team Uniforms and Use of Advertisement and/or Logos on Equipment, Uniforms and Apparel – Rule 503 - Collegiate

The official uniform must be loose-fitting and not made of denim, fleece, nylon or spandex-like material. No jeans, warmup suits or hats of any kind are permitted. All student-athletes require a neat appearance in both clothing and personal grooming. It is suggested to send a proof of new jersey designs to USBC Collegiate for approval prior to production. Team uniforms and use of advertising/logos on equipment, uniforms and apparel for the Intercollegiate Team Championships and Sectional Qualifier competitions must adhere to the following:

1. Team Shirts – Each student-athlete must wear shirts that are identical in style, color, print and design. All shirts must consist of collared, v-neck, rib-lined or banded necklines only. T-shirts are not approved for competition. Each team member must have the school name, initials or registered trademark logo in letters a minimum of 1-inch high on the shirt's back. Hand-printed lettering is not allowed (professional airbrush excluded). Removable plaques with school names are permitted. All lettering must be legible in English, and identical to each student-athlete's shirt.

Logos – A student-athlete may wear apparel that bears a trademark and/or logo provided the following criteria are met:

- a. No more than four logos (team logo, sponsor or brand) are permitted on a team uniform. School logo, player numbers, player name, external affiliation logo (NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA, etc.), conference logo, manufacturer logo and USBC Collegiate Logo are exempt from this rule.
  - b. Logo(s) can be placed only on the right or left shirtsleeve, shirtfront chest and/or the front of the student-athlete's skirt, culottes, skort, walking shorts or slacks.
  - c. Logo(s) cannot exceed 6 square inches including any additional material surrounding the normal trademark or logo (i.e., patch/emblem). School trademark, logos, name are exempt from this policy.
  - d. All team members must have the same logo advertisements on their shirts. Logos must be placed in the identical location on all team members.
  - e. In the event the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships and/or Sectional Qualifiers have major sponsorship, the student-athletes will be required to wear an event logo and/or sponsor advertisement/logo during the entire event. Event management will determine placement of this advertisement/logo.
2. Women's Apparel – Female student-athletes are required to wear slacks, skirts, culottes, skorts or walking shorts. All skirts, culottes, skorts or walking shorts must be no shorter than one-half the distance from the inseam to the top of the knee in length and/or no shorter than the fingertips when arms are at their sides while standing. Each student-athlete must wear slacks, skirts, culottes, skorts or walking shorts similar in color and the same in print or design. Slacks must not contain drawstring waists or elastic bottoms (ankles). Mixing of team apparel (skorts and skirts) is not permitted.
  3. Men's Apparel – Male student-athletes are required to wear slacks. Slacks must not contain drawstring waists or elastic bottoms (ankles). Each student-athlete must wear slacks similar in color and the same in print or design.

Student-athletes must comply with these rules during competition. The tournament director will enforce these guidelines and questionable apparel must be referred to the tournament director for approval before it is worn. Bring alternative team uniforms that follow the dress code in case approval is denied.

Penalty – Failure to comply with any dress code will result in a verbal warning and apparel change (if applicable). Second offense will result in a verbal warning, apparel change (if applicable) and/or possible disqualification for that block and following blocks until rectified.

### **Coaches' Attire and Use of Advertisement and/or Logos on Apparel – Rule 504 – Collegiate**

Attire for coaches and use of advertising/logos on apparel for the Intercollegiate Team Championships and Sectional Qualifying competitions must adhere to the following:

1. Coaches must wear appropriate attire during all practice sessions and competitions. Apparel must fall under the following guidelines. The tournament director will enforce these guidelines. Penalty – Failure to comply with this rule will result in a verbal warning and apparel change (if applicable). Second offense will result in a verbal warning, apparel change (if applicable) and/or possible ejection from coaching that block and following blocks until rectified.
2. Coaching apparel must be loose-fitting and not made of denim, fleece, spandex-like material. Sweatshirts are not permitted. No jeans, cargo pants or slacks with drawstring waists or elastic bottoms (ankles) are allowed. No T-shirts or hats of any kind are permitted. Women choosing to wear skirts, culottes, skorts or walking shorts must make sure they are no shorter than one-half the distance from the inseam to the top of the knee in length and/or no shorter than the fingertips when arms are at their sides while standing. A neat appearance in both clothing and personal grooming is required by all coaches.
3. Shirt Lettering – Coaches are allowed to have the school name, initials or registered trademark logo in letters a minimum of 1-inch high on the back of the shirt. Hand-printed lettering is not allowed (professional airbrush excluded). Removable plaques with school names are permitted. All lettering must be legible.
4. Advertising and Logos – If coaches choose to wear athletic apparel that bears the trademark and/or logo of athletic equipment or apparel manufacturer or distributor, it must follow the guidelines established for team uniforms.

### Practice – Rule 505 - Collegiate

There will be a 15-minute practice session prior to all blocks of competition. Bowlers not present forfeit their time. Substitutes will receive no additional practice balls before entering competition. Tournament participants are only permitted to practice during designated practice sessions. Violators will be disqualified from tournament play.

### Re-Racks – Rule 506 - Collegiate

Each team is allowed a total of one re-rack per Baker game. Violations will result in a forfeit of all pinfall for that frame. Tournament management may grant additional re-racks.

### Team Score Verification – Rule 507 - Collegiate

Coaches or team representatives are responsible for the verification of their team's score. Any scoring corrections must be made prior to signing the recap.

### Awards – Rule 508 - Collegiate

ITC awards will be issued for first, second and third place in each division. There will be a third-place award presented to the bracket runners-up in each division. In addition, the championship team in each division will receive commemorative rings.

The ITC will recognize a men's and women's most valuable player. Athletes are eligible for the all-tournament team only in the division that they compete.

### Coach Designation – Rule 509 - Collegiate

Each team will be allowed to designate two coaches per team. The coach listed on the official entry form will be the official representative of the team for all matters and will receive all applicable event amenities. The assistant coach's name must be provided to the tournament officials during team registration. During competition, only the two designated coaches and the eight designated athletes will be allowed in the settee area.

### Equipment Alterations – Rule 510 - Collegiate

Altering the surface of a bowling ball by the use of abrasives, cleaners or polish is prohibited during competition, including the warmup session prior to your squad. No modifications can be made to affect the balance of the bowling ball once competition has begun. In addition, all sanding products must be removed from the settee area (i.e., Abralon, sand paper, etc.).

**Penalty for first offense:** Individual and team are warned and the ball is removed from that competition (qualifying block or match). **Penalty for second offense:** Forfeiture of game in which the violation occurred.

### Lane Courtesy – Rule 511 - Collegiate

To maintain a consistent pace of bowling, it is proper etiquette to observe one-lane courtesy and deliver the bowling ball within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the tournament manager. Additional courtesy or delivery time is inappropriate, delays the pace and hinders the completion of competition on time. Official team warnings will be issued by tournament management directly to the designated coach.

**First offense:** Team receives a warning.

**Second offense:** Team will receive a score of zero for all remaining frames in the game.

**Third offense:** Team is removed from the event.

## ITC Sectional Format – Rule 512 – Collegiate

Each division will bowl 16 four-game Baker matches for a total of 64 Baker games.

Each team will bowl a rotating schedule with the final match of the fourth block being a position round. The scratch total pinfall for the 64 Baker games will determine the four Sectional Qualifier teams per division advancing to the Intercollegiate Team Championships.

## ITC Format – Rule 513 – Collegiate

Each division will begin competition bowling six (6) blocks of four four-game Baker System matches. For each match, Baker games 1 and 2 will be bowled on one lane with teams switching lanes on the same pair for Baker games 3 and 4. The total pinfall for 24 Baker games will determine the 1–16 rankings going into the double-elimination competition.

All 16 teams in each division will participate in the true double-elimination competition within the assigned eight-team bracket, consisting of a best-of-seven Baker System match. There will be no byes. Bracket assignments will be determined by qualifying scores. #1 will bowl #16, #2 will bowl #15, #3 will bowl #14, #4 will bowl #13, #5 will bowl #12, #6 will bowl #11, #7 will bowl #10 and #8 will bowl #9 in the opening round of match play. From the second round on, the winning teams of each match will remain in the winners bracket, and the losing teams will move into the elimination bracket. In order for a team in the elimination bracket to advance in the tournament, they must keep winning. Once a team in the elimination bracket incurs a second loss, that team is eliminated from the tournament.

The ITC televised finals format will be a single-elimination best-of-five Baker match between the two bracket champions in each division. Teams that are participating in the finals will be allowed unlimited practice on a designated pair of lanes prior to the match. After the TV introductions of the teams, the starting five athletes will receive one practice shot on their starting lane.

## Entry Forms – Rule 514 – Collegiate

The Sectional Qualifier entry form must be completed, signed and submitted along with the \$325 entry fee (non-refundable) to the USBC Collegiate national office by March 3. The ITC entry form accepting the team's ITC berth must be signed and returned to USBC Collegiate by March 17. There are no entry fees to the Intercollegiate Team Championships.



## ITC Lineup – Rule 515 – Collegiate

Teams must submit a team lineup and playing order prior to each Baker match-play game. The lower-seeded team will submit the team lineup and playing order to the scorekeeper/monitor first. Any team making an illegal lineup change during a Baker game will forfeit the entire game in which the change occurred. A lineup change made between Baker games does not prohibit the team from using the extra player during the following game as a substitute.

## ITC Match Play Lane Selection – Rule 516 – Collegiate

The top-seeded team, regardless of match-play record, will select the starting lane for each match and/or roll-off. The teams will switch lanes for each game in the match, including the tiebreaking game.

## Ties – Rule 517 – Collegiate

**ITC Sectionals:** In the event there is a tie going into the position round, the team with the highest third 16 Baker game total is seeded higher. If a tie exists to determine which team(s) will advance to the ITC, another Baker match will be bowled. The amount of games in the match will be determined by how many teams are tied. Teams will alternate lanes after each game. If a tie still exists after this Baker match, the tie will be broken by a ninth and 10th frame roll-off. The same athletes who started the ninth and 10th frame during the roll-off match will bowl in the roll-off in the same positions. If a tie still exists, the same athletes will continue rolling ninth and 10th frames alternating lanes until the tie is resolved. No substitutions will be allowed in any ninth and 10th frame roll-offs. Lanes used for ties will be determined by the tournament manager. Team starting lane will be determined by a random draw. In the event there is a tie for first, the teams tied will be declared co-champions.

**ITC Qualifying:** In the event there is a tie going into a position round, the previous four-game block will determine the higher seed. If previous block is a tie, the highest game from the previous 20 games will be used to determine the higher seed.

In the event there is a tie for seeding purposes at the completion of qualifying, the team with the highest pin total for the last 12 Baker games will be assigned the higher seed. If the 12 game total is a tie, the highest Baker game for all 24 games will be used. If the high game is a tie, each subsequent high game will be used until the tie is broken.

**Match Play:** If a tie exists at the end of the any double-elimination match or after the fifth game of television, there will be an eighth Baker game bowled (sixth game for TV) to complete the match. If a tie still exists after the eighth Baker game (or sixth game for TV), a ninth and 10th frame roll-off will break the tie. The players who rolled the ninth and 10th frames may be selected from the entire team. If a tie still exists, the same players will continue rolling ninth and 10th frames alternating lanes until the tie is resolved. No substitutions will be allowed in any ninth and 10th frame roll-offs.

## ITC Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Rule 518 – Collegiate

The use of an ineligible player at ITC Sectionals or the ITC will result in the team being disqualified from the event.

## ITC Bowling Equipment Regulations – Rule 519 – Collegiate

1. The ITC will not conduct an equipment weigh-in. A student-athlete will be required to register all bowling balls (up to a maximum of five bowling balls) with the event. Only balls listed on the ITC Equipment Registration Card may be used in competition. Each bowling ball can only be registered once with the event and only used by the student-athlete who registered it. All balls must be registered prior to beginning the official practice session. The event management team will handle emergency situations on a case-by-case basis.
2. Student-athletes are limited to use of a maximum of five (5) bowling balls in the ITC, including practice and competition. No additional balls may be added once the ball card is submitted to the tournament manager. Each bowling ball registered must contain official manufacturer identifying

mark, logo and trademark or product name imprinted over the heaviest portion of the ball prior to being drilled. If your equipment does not have any of these identifying markings, you must have the bowling ball's official paperwork. The paperwork must say the manufacturer, name of bowling ball, verification that it meets USBC specifications and signed by the manufacturer with their title and telephone number. If you are unable to acquire the official paperwork, you will not be able to use that bowling ball in the tournament. A student-athlete or team cannot register undrilled equipment.

3. Changes to equipment may be made between blocks, provided the bowling ball meets USBC specifications. A block is not complete until everybody in the same division has completed bowling. All alterations must be done by a USBC-approved pro shop or in the paddock area of the host bowling center. Bowling equipment cannot leave the competition premises once it has been registered with the event. If you prefer to alter your own equipment, space will be provided in the paddock. However, you must have your own equipment to make alterations or receive permission to alter someone else's equipment. If any equipment is altered illegally, the student-athlete will receive a warning and the ball will be removed from tournament competition for the next block.
4. Tournament staff may conduct spot checks in order to verify the bowling balls being used in competition are listed on the ITC Equipment Registration Card. In the event that a bowling ball is found not to meet USBC specifications after competition has begun, the ball will not be permitted in competition until it has been modified and meets the specifications.
5. Any student-athlete or team not following these rules may be disqualified from the event at the event management's discretion. Event management shall determine all matters not covered.

### Event Termination/Release Clause

To the Executive Director of the United States Bowling Congress: We hereby make application to participate in the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships and/or ITC Sectional Qualifier. We warrant that we are USBC Collegiate members. We agree to abide by all tournament and playing rules and regulations prescribed by USBC, including all provisions set forth on this form. USBC Collegiate may cancel the Intercollegiate Team Championships and/or ITC Sectional Qualifiers in the event of acts of God, war, government regulations, disaster, fire, strikes, civil disorders, weather catastrophes, labor disputes and strike, threats of terrorism or terrorism and travel advisories. In the event of cancellation, USBC Collegiate will not be responsible for participant expenses. We further agree that USBC may use our names and likenesses (including video) for promotional purposes at no cost to us and with no fees being paid by us. The entrants whose names appear on this application and/or authorized replacements hereby agree that the USBC, and its officers and agents, shall not be liable for any injury resulting from participation in bowling in the Intercollegiate Team Championships and/or ITC Sectional Qualifiers, absent willful or gross negligence on the part of USBC.



# INTERCOLLEGIATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Intercollegiate Singles Championships (ISC) Sectional Qualifiers are certified by the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) and shall be administered by the USBC Collegiate office and applicable USBC rules will be observed.

## Squads – Rule 600 - Collegiate

There will be separate divisions for men and women. The men's division will start at 7:30 a.m. and the women's division will be conducted at 3:30 p.m.

## Eligibility – Rule 601 - Collegiate

Participants in the USBC Intercollegiate Singles Championships (ISC) must meet the following USBC Collegiate eligibility criteria:

1. Full-time student enrolled in the Spring semester at a higher education institution (minimum of 12 hours undergrad or six hours graduate).
2. Be a USBC Collegiate member for the current season or pay a non-member participation fee of \$25 to the tournament manager.
3. Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale) as determined by the college they are enrolled in.
4. Student-athletes have a maximum of four years of eligibility in the USBC Intercollegiate Singles Championships.
5. Participants in the ISC are not required to be a member of an intercollegiate bowling team.
6. ISC advancers will be required to submit a completed USBC Collegiate eligibility form to the USBC Collegiate office if they are not on a sectionals team roster.
7. An individual who is classified as a touring and/or resident professional by a professional bowling organization is not eligible for USBC Collegiate membership. If an organization's title uses the word professional, individuals applying for membership or holding membership in that organization shall not be eligible for Intercollegiate Singles Championships.
8. Graduating student-athletes will be eligible to participate in the Intercollegiate Sectional Qualifier and National finals with less than full-time academic status providing they are taking the required credit hours needed for graduation in their final term.

## Entry Fee – Rule 602 - Collegiate

ISC entry fees are \$75, and an additional fee of \$25 must be paid by individuals who are not members of USBC Collegiate. Entries will open on February 23 by location according to the schedule below.

- Thunderbowl Lanes, Allen Park, Mich.: 10 a.m. Central time
- Smyrna Bowling Center, Smyrna, Tenn.: 12 p.m. Central time
- Stardust Bowl, Addison, Ill.: 2 p.m. Central time
- Cityview Lanes, Fort Worth, Texas: 4 p.m. Central time

Registration will close on March 1 at 5 p.m. Central time.

There will be no refunds once payment has been submitted. Individuals will not be moved to a new location once they have registered and paid for a location unless there is space available after March 1. Entries are based on a first-come, first-served basis. USBC Collegiate reserves the right to decline entries based on availability. Walk-in entries will not be accepted and any cancellation spots will not be filled on-site. USBC Collegiate does not charge an award fee.

## Participation – Rule 603 - Collegiate

Multiple entries are not accepted. Participants may bowl in any ISC Sectional Qualifier location. Participation as an individual in the Intercollegiate Singles competition does not constitute a year



of USBC Collegiate intercollegiate team eligibility. There is no limit to the number of participants from a university.

### Athlete Requirements – Rule 604 – Collegiate

Submitting the ISC Sectional Qualifier and ISC National entry form and fee means that all student-athletes agree to abide by all event and competition rules and policies. Any event and/or competition rule or policy violation could result in disqualification.

### Sectional Qualifier Format – Rule 605 – Collegiate

All participants will bowl six (6) games of competition, moving pairs with total pinfall determining final standings. A total of twenty-four (24) men and twenty-four (24) women will advance to the Intercollegiate Singles Championships. A minimum of four (4) men and four (4) women will advance to the ISC from each sectional site. The remaining eight (8) advancers in the men's and women's division will be allocated based on the size of the field at each sectional.

### Ties – Rule 606 – Collegiate

**Sectionals:** In the event of a tie for the final advancing spot after the completion of the six games of the ISC qualifying competition, one complete game shall be bowled on a neutral pair, selected by the tournament director. The individual bowling the highest first three-game total will select their starting lane with the bowler on the left lane beginning the match. The competing student-athletes will receive 10 minutes of practice. If a tie still exists at the end of the game, a one-ball roll-off will be bowled on the same pair of lanes to break the tie, with each bowler starting on the lane where they finished the match. Should a tie exist after the first ball and/or subsequent balls, the bowlers will continue to switch lanes until the tie is broken. The bowler on the odd lane will start.

In the event that a qualifier needs to be replaced and there is a tie to determine who will advance to the ISC, the high game from the qualifying scores will determine the student-athlete to advance. If the high score for each student-athlete is the same, each subsequent high score will be used until the tie is broken.

**Nationals:** In the event there is a tie for any position at the completion of qualifying, the athlete with the highest game in qualifying will be assigned the higher seed. If a tie exists at the end of any match in the match-play portion of the event, a one-ball roll-off will be bowled on the same pair of lanes to break the tie, with each bowler starting on the lane where they finished the match. Should a tie exist after the first ball and/or subsequent balls, the bowlers will continue to switch lanes until the tie is broken. The bowler on the odd lane will start.

### Dress Code – Rule 607 – Collegiate

Participants in the USBC Intercollegiate Singles Championships and Sectional Qualifier must be professional in appearance and meet the following USBC Collegiate dress code rules:

The official uniform must be loose-fitting and not made of denim, fleece, nylon or spandex-like material. No jeans, warmup suits or hats of any kind are permitted. All student-athletes are required to have a neat appearance in both clothing and personal grooming. Uniforms and use of advertising/logos on equipment, uniforms and apparel for the USBC Intercollegiate Singles Championships and Sectional Qualifier competitions must adhere to the following:

1. All shirts must consist of collared, v-neck, rib-lined or banded necklines only. T-shirts are not approved for competition.
2. Logos – A student-athlete may wear apparel that bears a trademark and/or logo provided the following criteria are met:
  - a. No more than four logos (team logo or sponsor) are permitted on a uniform.
  - b. Logo(s) can be placed only on the right or left shirtsleeve, shirtfront chest and/or the front of the student-athlete's skirt, culottes, skort, walking shorts or slacks.
  - c. Logo(s) cannot exceed 6 square inches, including any additional material surrounding the

normal trademark or logo (i.e., patch/emblem). School trademark, logos, name are exempt from this policy.

- d. In the event the USBC Intercollegiate Singles Championships and/or Sectional Qualifiers have major sponsorship, the student-athletes will be required to wear an event logo and/or sponsor advertisement/logo during the entire event. Event management will determine placement of this advertisement/logo.
3. Women's Apparel – Female student-athletes are required to wear slacks, skirts, culottes, skorts or walking shorts. All skirts, culottes, skorts or walking shorts must be no shorter than one-half the distance from the inseam to the top of the knee in length and/or no shorter than the fingertips when arms are at their sides while standing. Each student-athlete must wear slacks, skirts, culottes, skorts or walking shorts similar in color and the same in print or design.
4. Men's Apparel – Male student-athletes are required to wear slacks. Slacks must not contain drawstring waists or elastic bottoms (ankles).

Student-athletes must comply with these rules at all competitions. The tournament director will enforce these guidelines and questionable apparel must be referred to the tournament director for approval before it is worn.

**Penalty** – Failure to comply with any dress code will result in a verbal warning and apparel change (if applicable). Second offense will result in a verbal warning, apparel change (if applicable) and/or possible disqualification for that block and following blocks until rectified.

### Equipment Alterations – Rule 608 - Collegiate

Altering the surface of a bowling ball by the use of abrasives, cleaners or polish is prohibited during competition, including the warmup session prior to your squad. No modifications can be made to affect the balance of the bowling ball once competition has begun. In addition, all sanding products must be removed from the settee area (i.e., Abralon, sand paper, etc.).

**Penalty for first offense:** Individual is warned and the ball is removed from that competition qualifying block or match.

**Penalty for second offense:** Forfeiture of game in which the violation occurred.

### Code of Conduct – Rule 609 - Collegiate

All participants in the ISC must adhere to the USBC Collegiate Code of Conduct. Failure to comply will result in immediate disqualification. Participants in the ISC Sectionals are prohibited from drinking alcoholic beverages, smoking or using tobacco products during the duration of the tournament, whether they are competing or not. In the event a student-athlete is witnessed possessing alcohol or behaving in a manner unbecoming of an ISC Sectional participant, they will be immediately disqualified for the remainder of the event and subject to suspension.



## Practice – Rule 610 - Collegiate

There will be a 10-minute practice session prior to the start of qualifying and each match. Bowlers not present will forfeit their time.

## Settee Area – Rule 611 - Collegiate

Only student-athletes competing in the USBC Intercollegiate Singles qualifying are allowed in the settee area once competition starts. Individual coaches are not permitted in the settee area.

## Re-Racks – Rule 612 - Collegiate

Participants are allowed a total of one re-rack per game. Violations will result in a forfeit of all pinfall for that frame. Tournament management may grant additional re-racks.

## Bowling on Wrong Lane/Out of Turn - Rule 613 - Collegiate

Bowling on the wrong lane/out of turn constitutes a potential dead ball situation, provided it is protested before the offending competitor (or their opponent in match play) bowls again.

1. If a competitor rolls a strike on the wrong lane, they must bowl again on the correct lane.
2. If the competitor does not strike, their pin count will stand, and they must shoot the spare.

## Lane Courtesy – Rule 614 - Collegiate

To maintain the pace of bowling, it is proper etiquette in this event to observe one-lane courtesy and deliver the bowling ball within a reasonable amount of time. Additional courtesy or delivery time is inappropriate, delays the pace and hinders the completion of competition on time as determined by the tournament manager.

**First offense:** Individual receives a warning.

**Second offense:** Individuals will receive a score of zero for all remaining frames in the game.

**Third offense:** Individual will be removed from the event.

## Score Verification – Rule 615 - Collegiate

Participants are responsible for verification of their score. Any scoring corrections must be made prior to signing the recap sheet.

## ISC National Format – Rule 616 - Collegiate

All twenty-four (24) men and twenty-four (24) women in each division will bowl six (6) games of qualifying to determine the seeding for the match-play brackets. The top eight athletes in both divisions after six (6) games of qualifying will receive byes in match play. If there is a tie for any position in the standings, a ninth and 10th frame roll-off will be used to determine the higher seed.

Athletes qualifying first through eighth will be seeded into Round 2 of match play. For match play, participants will compete in a three-game total-pin match, with the higher-seeded athlete selecting the starting lane. The participant on the left lane will start the match. Athletes will switch lanes after each game of the match and alternate who starts each game. Match play will continue until the four qualifiers for the semifinals in both the men's and women's divisions are determined. The semifinal matches and championship matches are one-game matches.

## Declined Invitation – Rule 617 – Collegiate

In the event a participant declines an invitation to the Intercollegiate Singles Championships prior to March 29, the next-highest finisher in that Sectional Qualifier will be invited. If the invitation is declined after March 29, the spot may not be filled.

## Expenses – Rule 618 – Collegiate

USBC Collegiate will cover reasonable travel expenses for the participants to the Intercollegiate Singles Championships, including transportation and hotel. The student-athlete will be responsible for any baggage expenses.

## Bowling Equipment – Rule 619 – Collegiate

The number of bowling balls a student-athlete can use in the USBC Intercollegiate Singles Championships and Sectional Qualifiers is limited to five (5) bowling balls, including practice and competition. All equipment must meet USBC specifications. The following bowling balls are prohibited for use: 900 Global Altered Reality, 900 Global Wolverine, Roto Grip UFO Alert, Storm Electrify Solid, Storm Phaze 4, Storm Trend 2.

## Termination/Release Clause

To the Executive Director of the United States Bowling Congress: I hereby make application to participate in the Intercollegiate Singles Championships event listed and tender the entry fees required therefore. I warrant that I am a USBC Collegiate member or have paid the \$25 non-member participation fee. I agree to abide by all tournament playing rules and regulations prescribed by USBC, including all provisions set forth on this form. I specifically agree for myself and any replacement chosen by me or for me that if I am not eligible for participation and/or cannot bowl in the USBC Intercollegiate Singles Championships, then my prize, bowling, and expense fees shall be forfeited and all sums tendered by me as prize, bowling and expense fee may be retained by USBC as liquidated damages. The entrant whose name appears hereon or my authorized replacement hereby agrees that the USBC, its officers and agents shall be liable only to the extent of returning entry fees, less expenses, if and when that entrant shall be prevented from bowling any event in the tournament through premature termination of the tournament, which may be brought about by war, national emergency or emergencies or causes relating thereto resulting there from fires, labor difficulties, terrorism or threats of terrorism, or other causes beyond the control of USBC. I further agree that USBC may use my name and likenesses (including video) for promotional purposes at no cost to me and with no fees being paid by me. The entrant whose name appears on this application and/or authorized replacement hereby agrees that the USBC, and its officers and agents, shall not be liable for any injury resulting from participation in bowling in the Intercollegiate Singles Championships, absent willful or gross negligence on the part of USBC.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

## USBC Collegiate and National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association

### Philosophy

USBC Collegiate, the national governing body of intercollegiate bowling, in conjunction with the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association, provides collegiate bowling opportunities to enhance students' academic, athletic and personal development. Given this perspective, USBC Collegiate and the NCBCA accept responsibility to provide a competitive environment that stands for the highest ideals in competition, character, ethics and sportsmanship.

Membership with USBC Collegiate and participation in a certified intercollegiate bowling program is considered a privilege. In order to maintain that membership, student-athletes and coaches are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, honesty, integrity and respect for others as well as abide by all applicable rules, policies, regulations and laws. These include federal and state regulations and laws, city ordinances, USBC Collegiate rules and policies, and the student-athlete's institution team rules and policies. Collegiate bowlers and collegiate coaches, as representatives of the bowling community, are among the most visible players in the industry. Because of America's fascination with sports and those who play, a unique platform exists to be a role model, mentor or spokesperson. USBC Collegiate, the bowling industry and your institution benefit from this exposure. However, this platform brings with it a set of privileges and responsibilities both on and off the lanes.

To this end, USBC Collegiate, in conjunction with the NCBCA, has adopted a standard of ethical conduct and behavioral expectations for all USBC Collegiate and NCBCA members in accordance with basic policies set by institutions across the country and other collegiate athletic governing bodies. A balanced student-athlete will be a responsible citizen who achieves academically and performs athletically. The code does not constitute an exhaustive list of punishable misconduct but rather prescribes standards to guide individual choices. Student-athletes who violate these standards will be subject to disciplinary action by USBC Collegiate as well as the institution they represent in order to promote their own personal development and to protect and maintain order and stability in USBC Collegiate.

### **Alcohol Philosophy**

USBC Collegiate does not condone the use of alcohol and promotes an environment in which choosing not to drink alcoholic beverages is preferred and socially acceptable. USBC Collegiate and the NCBCA firmly believe the use of alcohol can be detrimental to the physical and mental well-being of student-athletes. The use of alcohol can seriously interfere with the performance of individuals as students and as athletes and can be extremely dangerous to the student-athlete and his/her teammates.

Alcohol abuse is a progressive disorder in which physical and psychological dependency can develop. The negative physical and mental effects of the abuse of alcohol are well documented. Even low levels of alcohol impair brain function, judgment, alertness, coordination and reflexes. It is the responsibility of all student-athletes and coaches to know the risks and damaging effects associated with alcohol use and abuse.

### **USBC Collegiate and NCBCA Policies**

The following policies are in effect during activities associated with any USBC Collegiate event:

#### **Alcohol Policy**

USBC Collegiate and NCBCA members are expected to abstain from the possession, use or distribution of alcoholic beverages. Student-athletes and coaches participating in any event conducted by USBC Collegiate are prohibited from consuming and/or possessing alcohol. Teams also must adhere to this policy at the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships Sectional host bowling center as well as at the Intercollegiate Team Championships and Intercollegiate Singles Championships host bowling centers and host hotels. This policy applies from the tournament scheduled date of arrival through the tournament scheduled date of departure.

#### **Illegal Drug Policy**

The possession, use or distribution of illegal and/or performance-enhancing drugs is strictly prohibited at all times. USBC Collegiate and NCBCA firmly believe the possession, use or distribution of illegal and/or performance-enhancing drugs is inconsistent with the purpose of intercollegiate athletics and can be detrimental to the physical and mental well-being of student-athletes and teammates. The use of drugs can seriously interfere with the performance of individuals as students and as athletes and can be extremely dangerous to the student-athlete and his/her teammates.

## **Tobacco Policy**

USBC Collegiate and NCBCA do not condone the use of tobacco, including the use of smokeless tobacco. USBC Collegiate and the NCBCA firmly believe the use of tobacco products can be detrimental to the physical and mental well-being of student-athletes. The negative effects of tobacco abuse are well documented. USBC Collegiate and the NCBCA strongly encourage all student-athletes and coaches to completely abstain from the use of tobacco products. Coaches and student-athletes are prohibited from using tobacco products during all practice, competition and related events, whether they are competing, and/or while in team uniform at any time.

## **Sportsmanship Policy**

One of the primary objectives of competition is to develop and foster respect for fellow participants, coaches, game officials and spectators. Participants and coaches should recognize their responsibility for proper conduct at the Sectional Qualifiers and Championship events. Coaches and/or athletes should recognize and assume responsibility for the actions of themselves and their team members.

USBC Collegiate and NCBCA members are ambassadors of collegiate bowling and enjoy certain privileges of such status. They also bear the responsibility of behaving with dignity and sportsmanship. Coaches and student-athletes shall conduct themselves at all times reflecting the high standards of honor and dignity that should characterize participation in competitive intercollegiate sports. Coaches and student-athletes shall conduct themselves in a manner reflecting positively on the reputation of themselves, their representative institutions, the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships, Intercollegiate Singles Championships and USBC Collegiate.

Officials, coaches, participants and spectators shall act in the highest ideals of sportsmanship at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes actions which are unbecoming to an ethical, fair and honorable individual. It consists of, but is not limited to, acts of deceit, disrespect, vulgarity, verbal or physical abuse and taunting or unseemly celebrations. Officials, coaches, participants, parents, athletic administrators, program directors and spectators should keep in mind that actions which are done in a manner to disconcert or be derogatory toward the opposing team(s) or a specific opponent or individual is considered inappropriate. While intense and emotional game action and conduct are certainly a responsible part of intercollegiate sports contests, cheering and other support should always be positive in nature.

## **Violations of Code of Conduct**

It is the personal responsibility of all student-athletes and coaches to adhere to all applicable rules, policies, regulations and laws concerning the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco and sportsmanship at all events conducted by USBC Collegiate. Ignorance of the rules is not an excuse. Student-athletes are expected to know the rules to protect their eligibility, the eligibility of their teammates and that of the institution they represent. Student-athletes and/or teams who are found responsible for behavior that violates any of these policies may be subject to disciplinary action by USBC Collegiate as well as the institution they represent.

Violations of the Code of Conduct by a student-athlete, team and/or coach may result in immediate disqualification of the individual and/or team from the event in which the violation occurred. Any disqualification from a USBC Collegiate recognized event will be reviewed by USBC Collegiate and staff. Violations by the student-athlete or coach may result in loss of membership with USBC Collegiate for a minimum of one year. Student-athletes who are suspended by USBC Collegiate lose collegiate eligibility equal to the time they are suspended. The institution also may be subject to loss of membership in USBC Collegiate and denied participation in all events conducted by USBC Collegiate beginning the following season for one full year. If a student-athlete opts to transfer from the suspended institution to an eligible institution, an additional year will be added to the standard USBC Collegiate Transfer Rule.

USBC Collegiate decisions may be appealed to the USBC Legal Committee. The appeal must be filed in writing within 10 days of the date of the letter notifying the student-athlete of the administrative decision. A statement of the reasons for the appeal must be included. The appeal should be forwarded to USBC Headquarters, Attention: USBC Rules.

All persons involved in collegiate bowling must continue their efforts to facilitate its growth in a positive way, which includes the development of student-athletes, better coaching and officiating with a continuing emphasis on good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches and spectators. USBC Collegiate and the

NCBCA will continue their responsibility to provide a competitive environment that stands for the highest ideals in competition, character, ethics and sportsmanship. We will do this by continuous review, development and enforcement of conduct standards, rules and policies in the best interest of the overall sport, each program and competition, including regular and postseason play.

## ITC SECTIONALS

### Sectional Qualifier Policies

The USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships Sectional Qualifiers are certified by the United States Bowling Congress and shall be administered by USBC Collegiate staff and applicable USBC rules and guidelines. Participation will be by invitation only based on season performance as outlined below.

An intercollegiate bowling team must become one of the top 80 men's or women's schools during the regular season to advance into postseason competition and participate in the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships Sectional Qualifying events. To become one of the 80 men's or women's teams, schools have to advance by:

- Winning its USBC Collegiate certified conference, OR
- Earning enough points in the Team Ranking System (TRS) and participating in three or more USBC Collegiate certified events which qualify for Team Ranking System Points (TRS)

USBC Collegiate will determine which of four Sectional Qualifiers each team will participate, creating a balance in field strength at each Sectional. Sectional Qualifying will consist of a two-day competition, with the top-four finishers in the men's and women's division at each Sectional Qualifier advancing to the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships.

The Sectional Qualifiers will consist of a two-day competition.

- Entry fees and forms must be submitted by March 1. Non-refundable entry fees are \$325 per team. Missing the deadline will result in forfeit of Sectional Qualifier competition. All other expenses associated with competing in the Sectional Qualifier are the responsibility of the team competing. USBC Collegiate does not charge an award fee.
- Failing to meet the Feb. 1 spring semester or April 5 spring quarter eligibility deadlines will result in termination of any postseason competition (Sectional Qualifiers or USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships). An additional eligibility check will be conducted at the Sectional site and each coach is required to submit an eligibility card to the Sectional Qualifier manager at team registration.
- Only one men's team and one women's team per school may compete in the Sectional Qualifier. Men and women have separate divisions. Mixed teams compete in the men's division. The advancing 80 men's and women's schools will be ranked from high to low based on final TRS totals.
- USBC Collegiate will consider field strength, geographic distance and economics when assigning schools to Sectional Qualifiers and attempt to assign both men's and women's teams from the same school to the same Sectional, if applicable, and subject to other requirements.
- USBC Collegiate also will attempt to have no more than two of the top eight, and no more than four of the top 16 schools, based on the final TRS totals in the same Sectional, subject to other requirements.
- USBC Collegiate will release final TRS standings and Sectional Qualifier assignments by Feb. 21, 2024. Results can be found on the Collegiate section of BOWL.com. USBC Collegiate will send official confirmation of a team's assigned Sectional Qualifier. USBC Collegiate's decisions on team placement at the Sectional Qualifiers are final.
- At the Sectional Qualifiers, team rosters can include up to eight student-athletes who hold current USBC Collegiate membership and have bowled for their school in a minimum of one certified intercollegiate team competition during the current season prior to Sectional Qualifying competition.
- Teams qualifying to compete in the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships are financially responsible for their travel and all other expenses associated with the competition except for team lodging.

## POSTSEASON ADVANCEMENT

An intercollegiate bowling team must become one of the top 80 men's or women's schools during the regular season to advance into postseason competition and participate in the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships Sectional Qualifying events. Four Sectional Qualifiers will advance the top-four finishers in each division to the Intercollegiate Team Championships 32-team field of 16 men's and 16 women's teams.

Schools have two opportunities to advance into postseason Sectional Qualifying events.

1. **Conference** – Each school is eligible to declare one USBC Collegiate certified conference in which it will attempt to advance to the postseason Sectional competition. The school shall declare through the Standardized USBC Collegiate Eligibility Form and notify its conference commissioner or secretary, who will also report that information on the USBC Collegiate Conference Certification Application. For a conference to be eligible as a qualifier to Sectionals, the conference must have:
  - a. Six USBC Collegiate certified men's teams representing different schools, all who have declared that conference as their Sectional qualifier and/or four USBC Collegiate certified women's teams representing different schools, all who have declared that conference as their Sectional qualifier.
  - b. Conference competition must consist of a minimum 18 equivalent team games.
  - c. The conference must be certified by USBC Collegiate.
  - d. The conference champion will advance to Sectional Qualifying competition.
2. **Team Ranking System** – Once it is determined how many teams will advance from conferences, the rest of the Sectional Qualifying field will be completed using the Team Ranking System. This system ranks schools based on their performance in USBC Collegiate certified events.

During the regular season, a school earns points based on its finish in up to 10 USBC Collegiate certified competitions. The 10 events shall include no more than five Tier I tournaments, with the remainder of the 10 events filled by Tier II tournaments and final conference standings (if applicable).

1. If a school participates in more than five Tier I tournaments, the points earned shall be averaged and multiplied by five to fit within the limit.
2. If a school competes in more Tier II tournaments and conferences (if applicable) than required to complete the 10-event limit, these points shall be averaged and multiplied by the applicable number to complete the limit.

### Tier I Tournaments

1. Competition must be completed by Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024, to be eligible for point consideration.
2. The tournament format must have at minimum nine equivalent team games (i.e., five Baker System games equal one regular game) prior to any team being cut or eliminated from the field.
3. Tournament entries must be available to all institutions a minimum of 50 days prior to the start of the event. Entries from multiple five-person teams representing the same institution can only be accepted 25 days prior to the start of the event providing space is available.
4. Only teams in the varsity division will earn Team Ranking Points.
5. Student-athletes are limited to use of a maximum of five bowling balls in Tier I events, including practice and competition. All teams participating in Tier I events must submit a ball registration form prior to the start of competition.
6. Lane conditions must comply with all current USBC Sport regulations.
7. All teams participating in Tier I events must submit a Lineup Form at the end of each competition day.
8. The following tournaments are Tier I tournaments provided they meet the above listed requirements:
  - Bowlero Southern Collegiate Classic
  - ISBPA/Kegel Midwest Collegiate Classic
  - Lehigh Valley Collegiate Classic
  - Glenn Carlson Las Vegas Invitational
  - Midwest Collegiate Championships
  - Mid States Championships
  - Keystone Quaker Classic
  - Collegiate Shoot-Out
  - National Collegiate Team Match Games
  - Hoosier Classic

### Tier II Tournaments And Conferences

1. Tier II events are all other USBC Collegiate certified tournaments and conferences (if applicable), provided they meet the following requirements.
2. Tier II events must have a minimum of five men's teams representing different schools and/or three women's teams representing different schools participating.



3. The tournament must have a minimum of seven equivalent team games (i.e., five Baker System games equal one regular game) prior to any team being cut or eliminated from the field.
4. Competition must be completed by Sunday, **Feb. 18, 2024**, to be eligible for point recognition.
5. The highest-finishing declared conference team advances to Sectional competition.

## Points

1. To be eligible for all points, teams must meet the October 15 fall semester or winter quarter and the Feb. 1 semester or April 5 quarter deadlines for USBC Collegiate membership and eligibility. Teams not meeting these deadlines will not earn points for events competed in prior to having a USBC Collegiate approved membership and eligibility application on file. The competition final standings will remain and the TRS points will not be recalculated. Teams missing the fall deadline begin to earn points the day USBC Collegiate approved membership and eligibility application are on file. Teams missing the February deadline are not eligible to be selected for the Intercollegiate Team Championships Sectionals Tournament. Refer to USBC Collegiate rules for membership and eligibility guidelines.
2. All eligibility issues for first semester/quarter must be cleared by October 31. Student-athletes not cleared by this date will be ruled ineligible for first semester/quarter.
3. All eligibility issues for second semester/quarter must be cleared by February 15. Student-athletes not cleared by this date will be ruled ineligible for second semester/quarter and deemed ineligible for postseason competition.
4. Collegiate approved membership and eligibility application is on file. Refer to USBC Collegiate Rules for membership and eligibility guidelines.
5. TRS points will be awarded to five-player teams only. Intercollegiate teams competing with less than five players at any point during an event will not receive TRS points.
  - Teams bowling with four or less members must take zeroes for every empty roster position both in team games and Baker games.
6. If an ineligible player is used in any competition, their team will receive no TRS points. The competition final standings will remain and the TRS points will not be recalculated.
7. Each school is ranked separately in the men's and women's divisions, with mixed teams being ranked in the men's division.
8. Any USBC Collegiate certified school that participates in an eligible competition will receive points.
9. If a school has a team(s) in two or more conferences, the school will only receive points from the USBC Collegiate certified conference declared as its advancer into postseason Sectional Qualifiers.
10. If a school has a team(s) in two or more tournaments that are held concurrently, each tournament shall be counted separately.
11. If a competition only has one division, the final standings will be split into a men's division and women's division for point consideration. If the competition and each division separately meet all requirements, then the men's and women's schools will receive applicable points.
12. For a Tier I or Tier II event that uses a roll-off format that drops prior pinfall or a stepladder final to determine the champion or order of finish, the final standings for point consideration shall be determined by the qualifying results before such roll-off or stepladder finals.
13. If two or more schools tie for a position, the points are split and any fractions of points are dropped.
14. All schools receive one point for participation and one point for every school it finishes ahead of in the final standings. No points are awarded for any schools tied.
15. Standings will be updated weekly through the regular season, pending receipt of competition results. Standings can be found on the Collegiate section of BOWL.com.
16. Teams withdrawing from a tournament prior to completing all qualifying games are not eligible for TRS points and do not qualify as a countable team in the standings.
17. Schools will be ranked from high to low based on the TRS formula. Schools that have competed in only one event shall receive the total power points earned multiplied by the event factor. Schools that have competed in two or more events shall receive the average of the school's power points earned multiplied by the event factor, plus two times the total power points earned. This will be prorated for schools that exceed the Tier I or 10-event limits. The average of the power points earned per event will be calculated by dividing the total regular-season points earned by the number of regular-season competitions competed in, dropping any fractional amount. The event factor is seven.
18. Bonus Pins: Bonus pins will not be awarded in USBC Collegiate competition.



Points Breakdowns – Tier II

Tier II points are awarded as follows:

# SCHOOLS

FINISH

SCH	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	15	17	19	21	23	25	27	31	35	39	43	47	51	
FIN	TIER 2 POINT CHART																							
1	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	
2	70	90	100	110	115	120	123	126	130	133	135	137	138	140	140	141	142	143	144	144	145	145	146	
3	0	30	60	70	80	90	97	103	110	116	120	124	127	130	130	132	134	136	138	138	140	140	142	
4		0	20	40	50	60	73	81	90	99	106	111	116	120	120	123	126	129	132	132	135	135	138	
5			0	20	30	40	50	60	70	82	92	98	105	110	110	114	118	122	126	126	130	130	134	
6				0	15	25	36	40	50	66	78	86	94	100	100	106	110	115	120	120	125	125	130	
7					0	12	23	30	40	50	64	74	83	90	90	98	102	108	114	115	120	120	126	
8						0	11	20	30	41	50	62	72	80	80	90	94	101	108	110	115	115	122	
9							0	10	20	32	42	50	61	70	70	82	86	94	102	105	110	110	118	
10								0	10	24	35	43	50	60	60	74	78	87	96	100	105	106	114	
11									0	16	28	36	44	50	55	66	71	80	90	95	100	102	110	
12										0	8	21	30	38	45	50	58	64	74	84	90	95	106	
13											0	14	24	32	40	45	50	57	68	78	85	90	102	
14												0	7	18	26	35	40	45	50	62	72	80	98	
15													0	12	20	30	35	40	46	56	66	75	94	
16														0	6	15	25	30	36	42	50	60	80	
17															0	10	20	25	32	38	46	55	78	
18																0	5	15	20	28	34	42	62	
19																	0	10	16	24	30	38	58	
20																		0	5	12	20	26	34	
21																			0	8	16	22	30	
22																				0	4	12	18	
23																					0	8	14	
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