



2025-2026 Rules & Regulations

Revised 7.11.25

1. **Classification:** The Junior Tournament Bowlers Association (JTBA) conducts USBC-certified scratch bowling tournaments for young bowlers.
2. **Management:** Kyle Wilson, Founder & Executive Director 3224 S. High Street Columbus, OH 43207
Phone: 606-477-JTBA (5822) Email: JTBAkyle@gmail.com.
3. **Communications:** The primary communication vehicles are our Team App (www.jtba.teamapp.com), our website (www.jtba.com), & email. Bowlers are required to provide a valid email address when requested.
4. JTBA tournaments are open to any 2025-2026 USBC-certified bowler (youth) in good standing.
5. **JTBA Divisions:** 18U, 16U, & 14U. Please note your Junior Gold age division may be different. JTBA age divisions for the 2025-2026 season are based on your age as of August 1, 2025.
6. **Membership:** Membership is free! A. Once you bowl your first JTBA event you are a member! B. All JTBA members get their own profile on the JTBA Team App. Post picture and bowling accomplishments to attract college coaches.
7. **Tournaments:** The JTBA season schedule is posted on the Team App & Website. The season consists of singles tournaments & an end-of-season Championship Tournament. Each tournament is a separate event. As a general rule, the JTBA does not conduct events during the Ohio High School Bowling Season, November through March 7, 2026. OHSAA rules allow a OHSAA bowler to compete in up to (2) non-high school events, during the OHSAA high school season, provided the high school bowler completes the 2025-2026 Waiver Request Bowling Non-Interscholastic Form, which can be found on the JTBA Team App & Website.
8. **Tournament Entries:** The entry form for each tournament will be posted on the JTBA Team App & Website. No Entry will be accepted without payment. Tournaments will fill on a first come/first serve basis based on the date the PAID entry was received. Pre-registered JTBA members will be given first preference in tournaments in which the size of the facility limits the number of entries. Walk-in entries, (day of event), will be allowed subject to lane availability. All walk-in entries are subject to a \$10 late processing fee for singles events & a \$20 fee. Tournament management reserves the right to reject any entry. Entries paid by check with insufficient funds will be subject to a \$40 service charge and will result in the suspension from future JTBA events until the service charge is paid-in-full. Bowlers may withdraw from an event & receive an entry fee refund, provided there was email notification prior to the date of the tournament. Bowlers who do not show up for a tournament and do not cancel their entry by 8:30 AM day of event, will forfeit their paid entry fee. The refund policy may be subject to a case-by case review based on bowler circumstances at the discretion of the Executive Director.
9. **Tournament Check-in:** All prepaid bowlers must be present and checked-in at the tournament office 15 minutes prior to the start of the tournament. Failure to do so may result in the non-refundable forfeiture of their tournament entry fee.
10. **Dress Code:** **TOPS-**All bowlers must wear a sleeved polo shirt with a collar or a sleeved collarless shirt made of dry-mesh or rapid-dry material. T-shirts, sweatshirts, and tank-tops are not allowed. All tops manufactured to be tucked-in (Uneven bottoms) must be tucked-in. Bowler's names on the back of the shirt is preferred, but not required. No bowler will be permitted to bowl in a shirt with the JTBA logo on it, that was not authorized. Penalty: \$75 fine, forfeiture of the illegal shirt. The fine will be used to purchase an authorized JTBA shirt. BOWLIFI is the official shirt provider of the JTBA. You can purchase an authorized/official JTBA shirt on the JTBA TEAM APP, Store feature.
BOTTOMS: Bottoms must be worn at waist level and not touch the floor. Jeans, cargo pants (Outside Pockets), yoga pants, or bottoms made of spandex-type material are not allowed. Girls are allowed to wear dress shorts, skorts, or skirts provided that they comply with the finger-tip length test. Girls may wear capri pants. Boys may wear full length dress pants or Dress Shorts (NO DENIM SHORTS). Belts must be worn on bottoms that have belt loops. Bowling shoes must be worn. No apparel may be worn with references to illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or use of obscenities or offensive content. Bowlers are expected to be professional in appearance reflecting the high caliber of scratch tournament bowler anticipated. Enforcement of the dress code is at the discretion of the JTBA Executive Director. Penalty: Bowler will not be permitted to compete unless an effort is made to remedy the situation. Remedies: Go to Target or Walmart and purchase items to correct situation. A Bowler will be permitted to start event, but will have to change when proper items arrive at the bowling center.

11. **Tournament Formats & Lane Patterns:** Formats for JTBA events will vary. The format for each JTBA event will be identified on the entry form, JTBA Team App (Document Section), and the JTBA website.
The JTBA will apply a "Sport or Challenge" lane pattern at all JTBA events. Lane pattern will be posted on the JTBA Team App (document section) & JTBA website at least 1 week prior to event. The lane pattern graph will also be displayed in the tournament office day of event.
12. **Championship Tournament:** The JTBA end-of-season Championship Tournament is open to all JTBA members in good standing who have bowled at least 1 event during the 2025-2026 JTBA Season.
13. **Tournament Scholarship Awards:** 100% of all scholarship funds collected from entry fees and additional scholarship resources will be deposited in the USBC SMART Account (**Account #9584**) for management and dispersal. No cash awards will be given to any JTBA bowler regardless if they are youth or adult USBC members. Bowlers can confirm the deposit of scholarship awards by visiting their SMART account statement at www.bowl.com. Tournament scholarships will be awarded as follows:
 - A. To no fewer than 1:7 participants in each division at every JTBA event.
 2. To those who earn scholarships in optional scholarship bracket and/or scholarship jackpot participation. In addition to tournament scholarship awards, the youth bowler in each division who places 1st at each tournament will receive a special JTBA miniature bowling ball or bowling pin. Girls who are NCAA, must notify tournament management that they will forfeit any scholarship money won.
14. **End-of-Season Scholarship Awards:** Those JTBA members in each division who qualify for the end-of season Championship Tournament will be eligible for the following scholarship awards earned during the regular season:
 - a. **HIGH AVERAGE:** For members who have bowled in six (6) or more regular season tournaments
 - b. **BOWLER OF THE YEAR:** Is determined based on points earned in the division in which a bowler participated at regular season JTBA tournaments.
 1. **POINTS AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:**
 - a. 1 performance point for each bowler you place ahead of in the tournament.
 - b. Qualifying Round (1st 5 games in event): 10 pts 1st place; 5 pts 2nd place
 - c. Bonus Points: 10 pts 1st; 8 pts 2nd; 6 pts 3rd; 5 pts 4th; 2 pts 5th.
 - d. The JTBA may deem certain tournaments as "double point events" in which case the participation & performance points listed above will double. Double point tournaments will be identified on the schedule.
 - e. The amount of these end-of-season scholarship awards will be based on funds collected from entry fees at regular season events. 100% of all scholarship funds collected will be awarded.
15. **USBC Junior Gold:** All JTBA events will offer current season USBC Jr. Gold Members the optional opportunity to compete in a Jr. Gold Qualifier. The fee to participate in a Jr. Gold Qualifier is \$50 for U18/U16 divisions, 1:5 Ratio; \$50 for U14 division, 1:4 ratio. Buy-ins will be offered as well in each division. Participants will earn a spot into the 2025 Junior Gold Championships to be held in July 2025, in the Detroit, Michigan area. **Please be advised that USBC Junior Gold Program determines the age requirements (date of birth) for their U18, U16, & U14 divisions. Please consult the age determination birth dates, located on the JTBA Official Junior Gold qualifier entry form when choosing your Junior Gold Qualifier age division! JTBA is not responsible for an error in division made by bowler or guardian when entering JTBA Junior Gold Qualifier. JUNIOR GOLD MEMBERSHIP FEE:** Membership to become a Junior Gold member is \$50 for U18/U16 & U14 divisions \$40.. **PLEASE NOTE: Junior Gold membership and qualifier entry fees are separate fees from the JTBA tournament entry fees and membership fees!**
16. **Additional Rules & Regulations:**
 - a. **Score Corrections:** When the automatic scorers in a center record the incorrect pin fall on any ball, bowlers may correct the score provided that another bowler(s) on the same pair acknowledge the scoring error. The correction must be completed prior to the next bowler throwing a ball on that lane or the correction may not be made.
 - b. **Tie Breaker:** Championship round bracket (Top 16, 8, 6, 4) 2-game total pins matches. If the match is tied after the 2 games, a 9th & 10th frame roll-off will be held until the tie is broken. Bracket seeding: Ties in position for bracket seeding will be broken by the bowler/team's highest single game during the 5 game qualifier. High Seed will have lane choice and for who bowls first for all matches in the single elimination bracket. In a double elimination bracket the high seed will have lane choice & who bowls first, unless the bowler/team coming out of the loser's bracket would beat them in the first match forcing a final match. In

that case only, the lane choice would go to the team out of the loser's bracket & they would also have choice of who bowls first in the match.

- c. **Lane Breakdown:** Contact the Front Desk at the center to correct/repair any lane breakdown or deadwood. Tournament management has the right to move bowlers on a broken pair to an unused working pair if conditions warrant. **NOTE: No additional practice will be offered unless breakdown has lasted more than 5 minutes. If bowler are moved to a new pair, each bowler will receive 1 ball on each lane practice.**
 - d. **Rule Violations:** If it is believed that a rule has been violated, bowlers on the pair must stop bowling, report the violation to tournament official, and await a rules decision on the alleged violation. **FOULS:** If the foul light goes off, the foul stands, unless someone on the pair noticed that the bowler did not foul, in that case and that case only, the foul will be removed, otherwise the foul stands!
 - e. **Lane Monitors:** Lane monitors will be requested at each tournament. The lane monitor is responsible to record each game score on the provided lane monitor score sheet, have each bowler initial their score in the proper box, and turn in scores to the tournament office after the 3rd and 5th game of the qualifying block. Lane monitors are not considered tournament officials and have no power to settle disputes.
 - f. **Early Termination:** Premature termination of any tournament caused by any reason beyond the control of the JTBA will end in results declared "FINAL" based on the scores the same last game completed by all bowlers. Awards will be prorated.
 - g. **Disputes:** Only a participating bowler may approach a tournament manager to discuss alleged rule violations.
 - h. **Pace of Play:** A bowler's delivery must be made within 25 seconds after the last ball rolled on the lane. Slow play will not be tolerated. 1st offense: a warning. 2nd offense a score of zero for the delivery in question.
 - i. **Lane Courtesy:** All JTBA Tournaments shall observe a one (1) lane courtesy.
 - j. **Empowerment:** Tournament Management has the right to refuse any entry. The bowler, by voluntary participation in the tournament, acquiesces to the final authority of tournament management to enforce all tournament rules, regulations, and procedures. Any unforeseen or not described situation(s) will be regulated by USBC rules with interpretative judgment guided by the best interests of youth bowling and the JTBA.
17. **Disclaimer:** All JTBA rules and regulations are subject to modification at any time at the discretion of the Executive Director. Any changes or modifications will be posted on the JTBA Team App (Document section) & the JTBA website. Also, current copies of rules & regulations can be obtained in the tournament office at any JTBA event.

