

# 2025 Missouri State USBC Masters & Queens Rules

(All rules for the 2025 Missouri State USBC Masters & Queens are subject to change)

## Rule 1 - ELIGIBILITY

- A. All participants must be current USBC members.
- B. If current membership cannot be verified, a USBC membership card must be purchased online (recommended) or at the tournament site. **THIS WILL BE AN ISSUE AS THE TOURNAMENT DATE IS THREE DAYS AFTER THE START OF A NEW SEASON. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT A MEMBERSHIP BE PURCHASED ONLINE THROUGH BOWL.COM.**

## Rule 2 - CRITERIA FOR INVITATION

- A. Invitations for the event will come from existing Missouri State USBC Championship events, occurring during the season immediately prior. Automatic invitations will be extended to the high scratch score in the divisions in the following (independent of optional paid entry in the division), with the intent of filling a sixteen-person field on both sides:
  - 1. **MOUSBC Open Championships**: The five (5) members of the high scratch Team; the two (2) members of the high scratch Doubles; the high scratch Singles (1); and the high scratch All-Events (1), to the Masters.
  - 2. **MOUSBC Senior Open Championships**: The two (2) members of the high scratch Doubles (2); the high scratch Singles (1); and the high scratch All-Events (1), to the Masters.
  - 3. **MOUSBC Youth Championships**: The Male high scratch All-Events (1), to the Masters (with a minimum scoring stipulation of at least 1,900).
  - 4. **MOUSBC Pepsi Youth Championships**: The Male scratch high six games (1), to the Masters (with a minimum scoring stipulation of at least 1,300).
  - 5. **MOUSBC Women's Championships**: The four (4) members of the high scratch Team; the two (2) members of the high scratch Doubles; the one (1) high scratch Singles; and the high scratch All-Events (1), to the Queens.
  - 6. **MOUSBC Senior Women's Championships**: The two (2) members of the high scratch Doubles; the high scratch Singles (1); and the high scratch All-Events (1), to the Queens.
  - 7. **MOUSBC Youth Championships**: The Female high scratch All-Events (1), to the Queens (with a minimum scoring stipulation of at least 1,800).
  - 8. **MOUSBC Pepsi Youth Championships**: The Female scratch high six games (1), to the Queens (with a minimum scoring stipulation of at least 1,200).
  - 9. Ties in any of the above divisions will result in both competitors with an invitation when there is room in the 16-person field. If there is not room for both, the high game during the qualifying event will determine the bowler to whom the invitation is extended.
- B. The invitation totals above result in filling 15 of 16 spots in the Masters, and 14 of 16 spots in the Queens. A PTQ will be used to fill the remaining spots. Please see PTQ rules for eligibility. If a qualifier as listed in Rule 2 declines the invitation, the spot will automatically be added to the respective PTQ.
- C. The hierarchy of invitations will be as stated in Rule 2, in the separate events. Team will supersede all, with Doubles following, then Singles, and finally All-Events.
  - 1. If an individual bowler wins two divisions in an event, the first in the hierarchy will be used and the next (and any subsequent) will be added to the PTQ.
  - 2. If a female qualifies in both the Open (or Senior Open) and the Women's (or Senior Women's) Championships, the higher position in the hierarchy of ANY event will determine the invitation extended, and the other position will automatically be added to the PTQ.
  - 3. If a youth bowler qualifies in both the Youth Championships and Pepsi Youth Championships, only one will be used, and the other position will be added to the PTQ.

## Rule 3 - PRACTICE SESSIONS

- A. An official practice session will be available to all bowlers. Date and time of the practice session will be posted on the official tournament webpage.
- B. There are no lane assignments for the practice session. Bowlers are free to move throughout the lanes assigned for practice.
- C. Ten (10) minutes of warmup will be available to each bowler prior to the seeding round.
- D. Four (4) shots of warmup will be available to each bowler prior to each round of match play where the round immediately follows another round. If there is a break for reconditioning,

bowlers will receive ten (10) shots on the pair.

#### **Rule 4 - COMPETITION**

- A. The Missouri State USBC Masters & Queens will each be a scratch, sixteen-person, double-elimination, two-game total pins match play bracket, after a three-game seeding round. A tie after the seeding round will be broken using the high game during seeding. If a tie still exists, the next highest seeding game will be used, and so on.
- B. Official brackets with lane assignments will be posted to the website at least one week in advance of the tournament.

#### **Rule 5 - DRESS CODE**

- A. Appropriate Attire
  - 1. A collared shirt with the participant's name on the back is recommended and requested, which will help with identification of bowlers during the livestream.
  - 2. Slacks, Dockers, or dress shorts acceptable for men.
  - 3. Women may wear dress slacks, shorts, skirts or skorts. Length of skirt, skorts or shorts must be below the bowler's fingertips when she is standing and her arms are hanging down at her side. No exceptions.
- B. Prohibited Attire
  - 1. Examples of prohibited attire includes but is not limited to:
    - a. Tank tops, halter tops, bare midriffs, spaghetti-strap tops, hats. Hats are permitted for documented medical conditions only.
    - b. Workout attire, including leggings, short shorts, short skirts, bib overalls, T-shirts.
    - c. Cords, jeans or any kind of denim.
  - 2. Bowlers will be required to change if attire is deemed inappropriate by tournament management.
  - 3. Tournament management's decision regarding appropriate dress will be final.

#### **Rule 6 - FEES**

- A. There is **NO ENTRY FEE** for bowlers who receive an invitation to the event, or for bowlers who win their way into the bracket via the PTQ.

#### **Rule 7 - PRIZE MONEY AND AWARDS**

- A. All bowlers advancing to the match play bracket will cash for at least \$125. Checks will be available onsite for all cashers.
- B. In addition to the prize money, winners will receive official state titles. They will also receive:
  - 1. Paid entry into the 2026 USBC Masters and 2026 USBC Queens, respectively. This award is transferable if the winner chooses not to compete.
  - 2. Prize money for first place.
  - 3. Reimbursement up to \$400 for expenses incurred traveling to the national event. Receipts will be required for reimbursement.
  - 4. Invitation to the next year's Missouri State USBC Masters or Queens.
- C. The IRS requires Missouri State USBC to furnish 1099 forms to individuals who accumulate winnings of \$600 or more annually in any Missouri State USBC event(s) in which they participate. Therefore, IRS W-9 Forms are required by IRS regulations for any bowlers earning more than \$600 aggregate in any and all MOUSBC events in 2025.
- D. Failure to furnish a Social Security number (U.S. citizens) to Missouri State USBC will result in a 30% tax reduction of the prize check.
- E. If for any reason a bowler wishes to waive the prize money, it is the participant's responsibility to notify tournament staff in writing at time of registration regarding their refusal of the prize money. If the prize money is waived, the amount will be returned to the prize fund for distribution.
- F. SMART Deposit will be used for all bowlers classified as U18 or below. A Rule 400 Waiver will be required prior to competition.
- G. IMPORTANT. If a bowler will not be 18 years of age prior to the start of the 2026 USBC Masters or Queens, the value of the entry fee nationally will be awarded as a SMART scholarship and the next bowler in line will represent Missouri nationally.

#### **Rule 8 - OIL PATTERN / LANE MAINTENANCE**

- A. Pattern will be Sport-compliant and posted on the official website 30 days prior to the event.
- B. Lanes

will be fresh prior to the seeding squad, and oiled immediately after before bracket competition begins. The oiling schedule after that will be indicated on the bracket schedule.

## **Rule 9 – BOWLING BALLS**

- A. All bowling balls must meet USBC specifications and be on the list of USBC-approved balls posted on [BOWL.com](http://BOWL.com).
  - 1. It is the player's responsibility to ensure all equipment is eligible for competition.
    - a. Any bowler may request to have their bowling balls checked prior to competition.
    - b. Plugged bowling balls are allowed.
  - 2. If a competitor uses a bowling ball not on the list of USBC-approved balls or one that does not meet USBC specification, the bowler will be disqualified from the tournament.
- B. In the event a player's bowling ball is damaged during tournament play in such a fashion that it will not meet USBC specifications, the player must notify the tournament director, and the ball must be immediately taken out of play.
- C. Random bowling ball checking may be done as deemed necessary by tournament management.
  - 1. If a competitor suspects a bowling ball used by another competitor does not meet specifications or was tampered with, they must inform the tournament director in writing. The tournament director reserves the right to request evidence the participant violated Rule 17a-1 before securing the ball for inspection.
  - 2. The tournament director will notify the competitor and inspect the bowling ball in question at a time of the tournament director's choosing. A decision will be rendered as soon as the appropriate measurements or USBC field test can be completed.
  - 3. If the ball passes inspection, the competitor who requested the inspection will be assessed a Code of Conduct violation and possible discipline. The decision of the tournament director shall be final.
  - 4. If the ball fails inspection, the ball shall be removed from competition and confiscated to prevent further use. A competitor shall only be subject to disqualification if there is a Rule 17 violation.
- D. During competition, no abrasives, cleaners or polishes may be used on the outer surface of a bowling ball. Only a dry towel may be used. The use of abrasives, cleaners or polishes is permitted when there is practice, but NEVER during competition. In addition, all sanding products must be removed from the competition area (i.e., Abralon, sandpaper, etc.).

## **Rule 10 - FORMAT**

- A. **Seeding Round** - Each entrant will bowl three games for seeding purposes into the bracket.
  - 1. No more than four bowlers on a pair.
  - 2. Bowlers will draw for lane assignments in the seeding round.
  - 3. Each bowler's 3-game total will be used to determine the qualifying position.
  - 4. In the event of a tie for any position, ties shall be broken in the following order:
    - a. Highest game of qualifying.
    - b. Next-highest qualifying game(s).
- B. **Match Play** – All sixteen bowlers will advance to double-elimination match-play competition.
  - 1. Each match will consist of two games. Total pinfall shall determine the winner.
  - 2. In the event of a tie during any match, all tied competitors will compete in a one-ball roll-off. The highest-seeded competitor shall determine the starting lane and position for the roll-off. The competitors shall bowl on the same lane and then alternate lanes in the same bowling order until the tie is broken.
  - 3. A double-elimination format will be used. A player is eliminated after two losses.
  - 4. All match-play participants start in the Winner's Bracket. After losing one match, they enter the Loser's Bracket.
  - 5. The order of bowling will be according to match-game procedure with the bowler on the odd lane starting first. The higher seed from qualifying will have choice of starting lane throughout match play.
  - 6. If a bowler withdraws from the tournament after qualifying and before match play begins, the bowler will forfeit the opportunity to compete in match play and cash in the appropriate position. The first two matches (double elimination) for that seed would be forfeited with the opponent still having to bowl the two games to advance.
  - 7. Bowlers arriving late for their matches in any round will bowl beginning with the frame then being bowled by their opponent. Failure to appear, regardless of cause, will constitute a forfeiture of the

match. The opponent still must bowl their two games to advance to the next round. Pacers will not be allowed.

8. If forfeiture occurs in the Winners Bracket, the forfeiting bowler automatically goes into the proper position in the Elimination Bracket.
9. If a bowler is disabled during the match and is unable to continue, they will receive a zero for all missed frames.

**C. Tournament Conclusion**

1. This event will be a true double-elimination format, meaning that if in the final match, the bowler from the Losers Bracket is victorious, a second match will be required.

**Rule 11 – TOURNAMENT STANDBY LIST/ALTERNATE FOR MATCH PLAY**

- A. A standby list will be created when all available spots have been filled. Bowlers on the standby list will be notified when a spot in the tournament has become available.
  1. At the discretion of the tournament director, standby competitors may be granted permission to practice during one practice session on the official practice day.
- B. Alternates will not be used in match play, except at the beginning of the day.

**Rule 12 - START OF COMPETITION**

- A. The definition of the “start of competition” is when any participant’s first ball is thrown for score during qualifying, match play and the stepladder finals.

**Rule 13 - WITHDRAWING AFTER THE TOURNAMENT HAS STARTED**

- A. Any competitor who wishes to withdraw while the tournament is in progress must notify the bowlers on their pair and then receive permission from the tournament director.

**Rule 14 - LANE COURTESY**

- A. Competitors must observe one-lane courtesy at all times to maintain a consistent pace of play.

**Rule 15 - RE-RACKS**

- A. Each bowler is allowed to take two re-racks per game during qualifying and match play.
- B. Additional re-racks may be granted with tournament management’s permission.

**Rule 16 - DELAYS AND MECHANICAL BREAKDOWNS**

- A. If a delay or mechanical breakdown of 10 minutes or longer occurs during competition, tournament management will authorize two (2) warm-up shots prior to the restarting of competition. Timing will begin the moment the tournament director is notified of the breakdown.
  1. An alternate pair shall be used whenever possible when awarding warmup in the event of a breakdown.
  2. If an alternate pair is not available, two (2) shots will be awarded on the lane opposite of where the competitor will throw his or her next shot for score.
- B. If a breakdown requires competitors to move to an alternate pair not previously used in the tournament, each competitor required to move will receive two (2) warm-up shots on each lane. Subsequent incoming bowlers may receive warm-up shots at the discretion of tournament management.
- C. If the pair is repaired, it will remain out of play for all squads unless a re-oil occurs. The pair may be brought back in to play if needed due to additional breakdowns.

**Rule 17 – TARDY PLAYER**

- A. If a bowler is late for his or her squad during any round other than the first round of the tournament, he or she will receive zero for each frame missed.
- B. A competitor not available to bowl at the official starting time posted for his or her first round will be disqualified and replaced by the next standby in line in the tournament venue. If the first person on the standby list is not present, a sliding scale will be used to fill the open spots.

**Rule 18 - SLOW PLAY**

- A. Bowlers are responsible to pace themselves accordingly with the pairs in front of them.
  1. A competitor shall have 25 seconds to start his or her delivery once the lane courtesy requirement has been satisfied.
  2. No warm-up shots will be awarded for slow bowling.

- B. Slow bowling penalties will be assessed at the discretion of the tournament director.

### **Rule 19 – DEAD BALL SITUATIONS**

The tournament director must be called and will make all decisions regarding dead ball situations.

- A. **Bowling on the Wrong Lane** - Bowling on the wrong lane constitutes a potential dead ball situation, provided it is protested before the offending competitor (or his or her opponent in match play) bowls again.
1. If a competitor rolls a strike on the wrong lane, he or she must bowl again on the correct lane.
  2. If the competitor does not strike, his or her pin count will stand, and he or she must shoot the spare on the same lane.
- B. **Bowling Out of Turn** - Bowling out of turn constitutes a potential dead ball situation, provided it is protested before the offending competitor (or his or her opponent in match play) bowls again.
1. If a competitor rolls a strike out of turn, he or she must bowl again in the correct order of play.
  2. If the competitor does not strike, his or her pin count will stand, and he or she must shoot the spare.
- C. **Dead Wood** – If a pin is in the channel, a competitor must consult the competitors on his or her pair to determine if it is in play. If any other competitor feels the pin is in play, it must be removed before a shot is thrown.
1. If the competitor attempts a spare conversion while a pin is in play and the ball contacts the dead wood before leaving the lane surface, he or she shall receive zero for the shot.
  2. If the competitor attempts a spare conversion while a pin is in play and any pin after coming in contact with the dead wood knocks down one or more pins, he or she shall receive zero for the shot.
- D. **Missing Pins** – A competitor must re-bowl the frame if it is determined that any pins were missing from the rack at which he or she shot.

### **Rule 20 – SCORE SHEET**

- A. Verifying and signing the score sheet.
1. Seeding Round- Competitors are responsible for verifying and signing both their own score sheets as well as that of their competitors. Verification of information includes game scores, total pins, plus/minus totals and bowling balls used in competition.
  2. Match Play- Both players must sign the score sheet immediately following each match. The winner of each match is required to turn in the score sheet to a tournament official at the match-play bracket table.
- B. Documenting equipment on the score sheet - Competitors must document each bowling ball used during the round on their score sheet by the end of the first game the ball is put into play. Documentation of each bowling ball should include a minimum of the last four digits of the serial number.
- C. Damage to score sheets- Competitors may not intentionally damage their score sheets.
- D. Official scores- Once a competitor signs his or her score sheet, he or she agrees that barring any necessary mathematical corrections, the score becomes official. MOUSBC shall immediately make any mathematical corrections, but any other disputes that would result in the improvement of a competitor's score shall not be allowed.

### **Rule 21 - POWDER**

No substance, including but not limited to, talcum powder and EZ Slide, can be applied to the bottom of a player's shoes.

### **Rule 22 - PERSONNEL IN THE COMPETITION AREA**

The tournament director will define the competition area prior to the start of competition.

- A. Authorized Personnel
1. Only tournament competitors, MOUSBC staff and tournament volunteers are permitted in the competition area during competition.
  2. Media personnel covering the event may be permitted into the competition area on a case-by-case basis.

**Rule 23 – PROTESTS**

A. Protests concerning scoring accuracy must be immediately filed with tournament management.

**Rule 24 - TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT**

A. Tournament management has the final authority to make interpretations of any tournament rules and make decisions regarding anything not covered in the rules.

**EVENT TERMINATION/RELEASE CLAUSE**

To the Tournament Director: I hereby make application to participate in this Missouri State USBC Championship event listed and tender the entry fees required, therefore. I warrant that I am a USBC member. 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 event, 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 Missouri State 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 therefrom, fires, labor difficulties, terrorism or threats of terrorism or other causes beyond the control of Missouri State USBC. I further agree that Missouri State USBC may use my name and likenesses (including video) for promotional purposes at no cost to me and with no fees being paid to me. The entrant whose name appears on this application and/or authorized replacement hereby agrees that the Missouri State USBC, and its officers and agents, shall not be liable for any injury resulting from participation in bowling in the event, absent willful or gross negligence on the part of Missouri State USBC.