2026-27 Wisconsin USBC Youth Scratch Championships

presented by SMART

(ALL BOWLERS MUST SEE AND UNDERSTAND THESE RULES)

REGIONAL/STATE RULES AND FORMAT
REGIONALS: U8 & U10 (Certification #05161)
U12, U14, U16 & U18 (Certification #05164)
STATE TOURNAMENT: (Certification #05165)

1. The USBC Youth Scratch Championships presented by SMART is a certified scratch tournament governed by USBC rules.

2. One time entry. If an individual qualified and cannot participate in regional competition, replacement must be made at regional level. Competition is open to all 2026-27 USBC Youth Division Certified members. To participate, bowlers must be bowling in a USBC certified youth league and not be under suspension at the time of qualifying.

3. League level competition is a benefit of USBC membership and has no entry fee. Bowling centers having 2026-27 certified USBC youth programs are automatic league level qualifying sites.

4. Regional and state level competitions may only be held in BPAA/BCAW member centers.

5. Competition will be conducted in **12 divisions** based on the participant's birth date and gender. Participation in the wrong age division may lead to automatic disqualification. There are boys' and girls' divisions in each of the following age groups:

U 8- DOB	8/1/18 or later
U10-DOB	8/1/16thru7/31/18
U12- DOB	8/1/14 thru 7/31/16
U14- DOB	8/1/12 thru 7/31/14
U16- DOB	8/1/10thru7/31/12
U18- DOB	8/1/08 thru 7/31/10

All advancers to the Junior Gold Championships must be Junior Gold Program members or be eligible and purchase a membership prior to the championships.

6. **Qualifying** Each center may run two, 2-week qualifying periods with the first round running between **October 31 and November 14, 2026 and the second round running between January 2 and 16, 2027**.

7. **Ties to determine position standing** If there is a tie for the last place qualifier in a division, both will advance to the next level of competition, where applicable. At the state finals ties for first place only will be broken by a one game roll-off. Should a tie still exist, it will be broken by an additional ninth and tenth frame roll-off. (Refer to Rule 326a.)

8. **Closing date for the first-round entries to be entered in the proper regional portal is December 11, 2026. Closing date for the second-round entries to be entered in the proper regional portal is February 12, 2027. No additional entries will be accepted by BCAW after February 12, 2027.**

9. **Regional competition** will take place April 3-4 and April 10-11, 2027, at various locations throughout the state.

10. Qualifying scores must be bowled during regularly scheduled league play. Pre-bowled or post-bowled scores are not allowed to be used as scores for advancement purposes. Advancement to the next competition level will be from the league level.

11. Participants can advance only once to qualify in any region/state where they hold a 2026-27 USBC Youth membership card.

12. In the event a bowler qualifies in more than one league in the same division, the bowler must advance from the league in which the highest series was bowled. For identical qualifying scores, the member will advance from the league where the first score was bowled.

13. If a bowler advances from league level in more than one region/state, the bowler must declare one region/state to continue competing before the next competition level.

14. Participation in any level of competition past the league level in more than one region/state will result in automatic disqualification. Advancers remain in the division they qualified in during the league level in all subsequent competitions. If there is a tie for the last place qualifier in a division, both will advance to the next level of competition.

Entry Fees:	**U8 & U10**	**U12, U14, U16, U18**
Lineage	$12.00	$12.00
Expense	$9.00	$27.00*
Awards	.50	$1.00
Scholarships	$18.50	*
TOTAL	**$40.00**	**$40.00**

*Expense fee includes the cost of lineage and scholarships for the state finals

*Expense fee includes the cost of lineage for the state finals, including scholarships awarded ($10.00) at the state tournament. Advancing bowlers do not pay an additional fee.

Entry fee checks are to be made payable to your center or youth league coordinator. ***BCAW will only accept entries and payment from the center or youth league coordinator***. There will be a $50 service fee for any returned checks.

15. All divisions advance from league level to regionals - advancing ratio 1:3, with a three-game format, or major fraction thereof, including last place ties. In all cases at least one bowler per division shall advance. Only the U12, U14, U16 & U18 boys and girls divisions advance from regionals to state – based on a ratio 1:10 with a six-game format competition at state. No replacements will be allowed at the state level.

All bowlers advancing to the state finals will bowl two three game blocks to determine standings. There is no carryover from the regional competition to the state finals. Awards and Scholarship fees shall be returned 100%. The state tournament will be held May 2, 2027, at Dale's Weston Lanes in Weston.

16. The top one bowler in the U12, U14, U16 and U18 divisions for boys and girls at the state competition with the highest score will earn a berth to the Junior Gold Championships.

2026-27 USBC Junior Gold membership is open to all USBC Standard Youth members at the local level of qualifying for the USBC Youth Scratch Championships presented by SMART. The 2027 Junior Gold Championships will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 10-17, 2027. Bowlers must be USBC Junior Gold members to advance to the Junior Gold Championships. Bowlers without a current Junior Gold membership must purchase a Junior Gold membership prior to June 7, 2027**.** USBC will waive the $250 (U18, U16), $200 (U14) and $150 (U12) entry fees for these athletes. These athletes will compete for additional scholarships available to all athletes at the championships, as well as other prizes and awards. All U.S. citizens are vying for a spot on USBC Junior Team USA 2027 to represent the United States in national and international competition. If a U12, U14, U16 and U18 division champion is unwilling to become a Junior Gold member or has already qualified for the 2027 USBC Junior Gold Championships, he or she will not be offered the berth into the Junior Gold Championships. However, the athlete will still retain the state scholarship, but the berth to the Junior Gold Championships will be awarded to the next eligible athlete. **BCAW will pay $300 travel reimbursement to the player receiving the Wisconsin USBC Youth Scratch Championships presented by SMART Junior Gold entry from this event.** To receive travel reimbursement, the bowler must compete in the Junior Gold Championships and submit appropriate receipts. No travel reimbursement or stipend will be provided by USBC for these athletes.

17. Finalists must agree to bowl in the Junior Gold Championships or in failing to do so, agree to waive all rights. Finalists who earn Junior Gold spots but choose not to advance to the Junior Gold Championships are eligible to receive the scholarships they win but forfeit any travel reimbursement provided by the BCAW. Replacements will be selected based on the order of finish in their division at the state level. If a qualifier needs to be replaced and there is a tie to determine who will advance to the Junior Gold Championships, the high game from the qualifying scores will determine who will advance. If the high score for each is the same, the next subsequent high score will be used until the tie is broken.

18. Failure to abide by any rules and regulations will lead to disqualification from this event. The USBC Youth Scratch Championships presented by SMART Tournament Director reserves the right to accept or reject any participant.

19. The USBC Youth Scratch Championships presented by SMART Tournament Director will decide all matters not covered by these rules and regulations or USBC rules and regulations.

20. Dress code for regional and state competition. Neat appearance in both clothing and personal grooming is required by all competitors. All bowlers must wear suitable attire which will include polo shirts or sleeved t-shirts that may not contain any reference to alcohol, tobacco, drugs or profanity.

All boys are required to wear loose fitting, full-length slacks/pants. Girls are required to wear loose-fitting, full-length slacks, skirts or skorts. Denim of any color is also permitted. Slacks must not contain drawstring waists or elastic bottoms. All clothing must be loose fitting; yoga pants and leggings are not permitted. Clothes with tears and holes will not be allowed. No exposed undergarments or midriffs will be allowed. Please dress properly, as the Tournament Director has the final authority in determining the appropriateness of bowler's attire. Hats/caps and sunglasses cannot be worn during practice or while competing. This rule will be strictly enforced at the 2027 USBC Youth Scratch Championships presented by SMART. Noncompliance will result in being required to change clothes or be disqualified from the event.

21. Photographs of participants may be taken for publicity purposes.

22. No smoking, alcohol, chewing tobacco or foul language will be permitted in the bowling area, including the concourse area where competition is taking place.

23. No electronic devices or artificial noisemakers will be allowed once competition begins. Examples of electronic devices in this case are (but not limited to): wireless earbuds (i.e. Apple AirPods), headphones, cell phones, portable media players, tablet computers (i.e. iPads). Exceptions will be made for medical situations, subject to BCAW approval.

24. Substitutes are permitted at the regional level competition ONLY. Substitutes must be within the same division and from the center that qualification took place. NO substitutes are permitted at state finals. Replacements may be used for bowlers not present 30 minutes prior to squad time as stated in Rule 2. Bowlers will be allowed ten minutes of practice time on their starting pair. A bowler arriving late shall begin play and the

score shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled. Frames missed count as zero. A bowler not present and ready to bowl when it is their turn will be credited with a zero for that frame.

25. Only bowlers and tournament officials shall be permitted in the settee and bowlers' area.

26. Symbolic awards will be given at the regional and state level distributed at a minimum ratio of 1:10 or a majority thereof.

27. Scholarships will be awarded in the U12, U14, U16 & U18 boys' and girls' divisions of the state finals at a minimum 1:10 ratio. One scholarship will be awarded in each region to the U8 and U10 boys' and girls' division champion. All scholarships will be sent to SMART for administration.

28. Claims for errors in scoring or general playing rules must be made to the on-site tournament manager within 15 minutes of completion of bowling. Questionable errors shall be reviewed by the on-site tournament manager. All other protests must be confirmed in writing to the on-site tournament manager within 72 hours (regionals) or before the awards are given out (state). Each protest under this rule must be specific. Please call if you need clarification of the above rules.

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PRESENTED BY SMART