

Montana USBC Tournament Standing Rules

(Applicable to ALL Montana USBC sponsored adult tournaments)

1. **Tournament Eligibility (USBC Rule 300c)** – All entrants must be members of USBC residing or bowling in the area of a local association certified within the Montana USBC Association.
2. **Team Captains (USBC Rule 304)** – Team captains are to have their team members present no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled squad time. Proof of current USBC membership must be provided if requested.
3. **Prize Fund Distribution (USBC Rule 309)** – All prize funds will be distributed within 30 days of the close of the tournament. A prize list will be transmitted (via e-mail or regular mail) to each bowling center and local association manager. Preliminary and final results will be posted on bowlmontana.com.
4. **Entries Close (USBC Rule 310)** – Entries in all MTUSBC sponsored tournament will close after the start of competition, as specified in the particular tournament rules, but in no case close later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the start of the last scheduled squad. Entrants in a particular tournament who have not exceeded their multiple participation limits prior to the tournament's specified entry closing will be allowed to enter those events (where their limits have not been exceeded) by submitting an entry form and associated entry fees to the tournament director.
5. **Submitting Entries (USBC Rule 311)** – Entries will be scheduled according to requests in the order received, if possible. The tournament schedule will not be changed by the tournament director except for emergencies. Confirmation of squad times and dates will be made via e-mail, if available or by regular mail to the team captain designated on the entry form.
6. **Entry Refunds (USBC Rule 314)** – Entry fees will not be refunded except when an alternate time, other than requested, has been assigned and the entering team has been notified of the new time. The entering team has ten (10) days from the date stamped/transmitted on the confirmation letter to refuse the alternate time. Absolutely no refunds after the tournament starting date.
7. **Entering Average (USBC Rule 319a)** – A bowler must use his/her **Montana USBC state tournament average (21 game min.) as listed on the website, www.bowlmontana.com**. If no such average exists, then bowler must use the higher of his/her 2021-22 final season average (summer leagues included) or their January 1, 2023, average. A bowler without a certified 2021-22 winter or summer league average, or a January 1, 2023 average may use their current average as of the date bowled providing they have attained at least 21 games. In this case, an average verification letter from the participant's league secretary or local Association Manager will be required. All averages are for a 21 game minimum. **A bowler without an average as defined above must bowl scratch. Non-Montana residents are required to have at least 21 games in a 2022-23 Montana league (USBC certified) in order to enter a Montana adult state tournament.** If a bowler has both a Montana average and a certified league average that was attained in a league outside Montana, then the non-Montana average must be verified in writing from that league's local Association Manager. **USBC Rules 319a2 and 319d are waived.** All other aspects of rule 319 are in effect. A rule book is available on bowl.com.
8. **Assigned Averages (USBC Rule 319b)** – A participant without an entering average will be assigned an average appropriate to the handicap being used in the tournament.
9. **Average Adjustments (USBC Rule 319c)** is only in effect for bowlers, who have been rerated nationally by USBC and only when the adjusted average is higher than their Montana USBC state tournament average.
10. **Sport to Standard Tournament (USBC Rule 201c)** - A bowler must submit and use his/her adjusted Sport or Challenge League average if he/she does not have a Standard league average from the same season. Please read and understand all of the conditions of this rule.
11. **Tardy Players (USBC Rule 322a)** – Bowlers arriving after competition has officially begun, will not be allowed to make-up frames missed and will receive a score of zero (0) for each frame missed.
12. **Lineup Changes (USBC Rule 324a)** – Substitutes are allowed. Substitutions must be made to the tournament director as early as possible, but in any case, no later than 45 minutes prior to the start of assigned squad time. Average verification must accompany substitutions. Substitutes will NOT be furnished by the hosting association, except in the case of an emergency. In emergency situations, the substituting bowler must take the lineup place of the original bowler and will not be required to reimburse the original bowler's entry fee.
13. **Scoring Errors (USBC Rule 327b)** – Errors in scoring must be reported to the tournament director within 48 hours of the completion of the squad bowled.
14. **Ball Cleaner** – No ball cleaner of any kind, including ones marked "USBC approved", will be allowed during competition in all state tournaments. Additionally, **no ball surface changes of any kind** are allowed once scoring has started. Announcements to this effect will be made at the start of each shift. After that, no warnings will be given. Any violations will result in immediate disqualification. This also includes youth state tournaments.
15. **Protests and Appeals (USBC Rule 329)** – The Montana USBC Board of Directors and the Tournament Manager shall have the power to hear and act on all protests and appeals arising from or under construction of the rules for Montana USBC sponsored tournament. The joint committee shall also decide any questions not covered by tournament rules. All protests and appeals concerning eligibility or general playing rules must be confirmed in writing to the tournament director before tournament prize payments are made.
16. **Improper Conduct (USBC Rule 17b)** – Participants need to be aware of this rule and the five sub-parts to it. **USBC Rule 115a (Using foul language)** closely parallels improper conduct also. Anyone violating these rules are subject to having their membership suspended.