

2025-2026 Tournament Rules

1. **YBT:** The 2025-2026 **Youth Bowler's Tour** will be comprised of 12 separate tournaments. Youth bowlers may choose to compete in any or all of the events. Visit the YBT website at www.ybtbowling.com, [follow us on Facebook](#), or email us at ybtbowling@gmail.com for additional information.
2. **Divisions:** There will be 3 separate divisions. Classic, Scratch and Handicap. All bowlers should familiarize themselves with the **YBT Entering Average Rule**. House Averages will be converted to a **Sport Average** according to the USBC conversion chart.
 - ☐ **Classic Division** - This division is open to any bowler, but all bowlers who average 190 (164 Sport) and over will be required to compete in this division.
 - ☐ **Scratch Division** - This division is open to any bowler whose entering average is 189 (163 Sport) and under, but all bowlers who average between 166 and 189 (146 and 163 Sport) will be required to compete in this division.
 - ☐ **Handicap Division** – This division is only open to any bowler who averages 165 (145 Sport) and below. See [Handicap Rule](#).
3. **YBT Entering Average:** A bowler's entering average will be the highest of the following: (1) last season's YBT average if 12 games or more have been bowled, (2) the USBC 2024-2025 highest certified house average (after conversion), or (3) the highest current season's USBC certified house average (after conversion) of 12 games or more. **Those who have never previously bowled in the YBT will be required to present written confirmation of their highest USBC certified averages (both current and last season) or you will be placed in the Scratch Division. Each bowler will be responsible for verifying his or her average. Bowlers not complying with this rule may be subject to disqualification.**
4. **YBT Average Rule:** Handicap will be based on the bowlers entering average (rule 3) until 8 or more games have been bowled in this season's YBT, then this season's YBT average will be used. The YBT average rule is designed to keep all bowlers as competitive as possible. Tournament Directors have the right to do any re-rating.
5. **Division Adjustments:** At the end of each half, bowlers will be adjusted into the appropriate division based on their current season's YBT average of 8 games or more. A bowler may never be adjusted into a division lower than where their entering average would place them. A bowler may be adjusted into a higher division and then back down into a lower division in the following half. Refer to Rule #2 for average breakdown.
6. **Eligibility:** The YBT tournaments are open to all junior bowlers, not yet age 18 as of August 1, 2025 and who have never bowled in any competition where cash or merchandise is offered as a prize. If you are not a USBC Youth Certified bowler, you must pay a \$4.00 USBC Certification Fee.
7. **Handicap** will be based on 80% of the difference in the entering average and 200, with a maximum handicap of 80 pins per game. (100 avg)
8. **Tournament Format:** Bowlers will bowl four games across eight lanes in the qualifying round. **YBT is not responsible for lane breakdowns or oil malfunctions.** The top 16 bowlers in each division will advance to single elimination matches. Ties for the qualifying spot will result in a 9th and 10th frame rolloff. Top 16 in each division MUST be present at the start of match play, or we will ask for the next seed, in order, whoever is remaining at the tournament. That bowler would become the 16th seed, and everyone else adjusted accordingly. Each bowler in the match will bowl 2 games and total pins will determine the winner. Less than 16 bowlers in any division, all bowlers will return after break to bowl 2 more games, then cut will be to the top 8. Same rule applies for ALL bowlers to be present at the start of match play
9. **Check-in and Practice:** Check-in begins at 8:15. All bowlers should be checked in by 8:45. All bowlers will draw for starting lane. Announcements will start at 9:00 am. There will be 10 minutes of practice following the announcements.
10. **Membership:** The YBT Membership Fee is \$50 for the 2025-2026 (September through July) season. You can pay this fee at your first event, or you can pay the non-member entry fee in your first two events. Each member will receive 50 raffle tickets sometime in Feb/March. YBT members may sell the tickets and keep the money to cover their actual membership. The raffle tickets are turned in and prizes are given away at the last tournament. All monies are placed into the YBT SMART Scholarship Fund.
11. **Entry Fee:** The entry fee will be \$40.00 per tournament for Youth Bowlers' Tour (YBT) members and \$65.00 per tournament for non-YBT members. No entry fee or bracket monies will be refunded after practice begins.
12. **Junior Gold Qualifiers:** Is only open to YBT bowlers who have a fully paid YBT membership for this current year 2025-2026.
 - ☐ Junior Gold Qualifier Rules: Please see the Junior Gold Rules Form listed on "ybtbowling.com".
13. **Awards** - Plaques will be awarded to the champion of each division. SMART Scholarship dollars will be awarded in each division according to the number of entries. With 16 or more entries, 8 places will be awarded. With less than 16 entries, 4 places will be awarded. The awards will be as follows: 1st - \$200, 2nd - \$150, 3rd & 4th - \$100, & 5th through 8th - \$65. Each half awards will be determined based on total entries for the year within each division. The top qualifier in each division will be awarded additional SMART scholarship money for each event. All scholarships will be forwarded to USBC and administered by the SMART Program.
14. **Recruiting Award:** Any bowler who brings a 1st time ever YBT bowler will earn a \$5 discount on that tournament's entry fee.
15. **YBT Point System:** The YBT point standings will be used to determine SMART scholarship awards, which will consist of the top 3 positions in each division, per half,
YBT Points will be earned as follows:
 - ☐ 10 points earned for bowling in a tournament
 - ☐ 10 – 25 points determined on qualifying position (1st – 25 points, 2nd – 24 points, ..., 15th – 11 points, 16th – 10 points). Where qualifying ties exist, the points will be added together and split evenly.
 - ☐ 10 points earned for each match won
16. **Dress Code:** The following dress code is required during YBT tournament competition: Collared shirts, long pants (dress or like-new blue jeans), dress shorts and skirts. The following is not allowed during YBT tournament competition: Hats, t-shirts, short shorts, miniskirts, cut off blue jean shorts, tank tops, clothing that is dirty or has holes in them, or shirts not covering the belly button. Violations will be determined at the director(s) tournament discretion. On the first dress code violation a bowler will be warned. On the second dress code violation the bowler will not be allowed to bowl. This dress code will be strictly enforced.
17. **Electronics:** Electronics, including phones, headphones, earbuds, etc. are not allowed in the settee area during practice or competition.
18. **Bullying and/or Poor Sportsmanship will NOT be tolerated. ZERO TOLERANCE, bowler will be disqualified.**
19. **Remaining Rules:** All rules not specifically covered will be governed by the rules of the USBC and the judgment of the tournament directors, who reserve all rights regarding the operation of the tournament.
20. **Checks are payable to: YBT. Return Check fee is \$40**