

# 2026 UAW INTERNATIONAL BOWLING FINALS RULES AND REGULATIONS

## **1. ELIGIBILITY:**

The 2026 UAW International Bowling Finals are open to ACTIVE UAW members in good standing, RETIRED UAW members in good standing, paying dues to an active UAW Local Retiree Chapter, and the legally recognized spouse/partner of eligible ACTIVE or RETIRED participants.

All participating bowlers must be verified by their respective local union Financial Secretary and must have bowled and advanced in their Regional Bowling Qualifiers.

Teams may be composed of all men, all women, or blended with a playing strength of five. USBC and eligible non-USBC members may participate in a moral support tournament, with high score recognition automatically extended to USBC members. Non-USBC members can obtain high score recognition by purchasing a membership card prior to bowling.

## **2. REGIONAL QUALIFIERS:**

Any UAW-sponsored (10-pin) tournament affiliating with this event must be standardized to include a Team Event and have identical average and eligibility rules and the same handicap systems. All team members must meet eligibility requirements as defined above.

All participating bowlers must be an ACTIVE or RETIRED member of a local union located within the region of the regional qualifying tournament. A bowler can participate only once in a UAW regional qualifying tournament.

Regional competition will be three games across two lanes. The International Final competition will be three games across two lanes, for both Single and Team competition. Qualifying scores will be based on the total score for three games with a handicap added.

Regions may advance teams to the UAW Finals Bowling Championship Tournament using the formulas on page 22.

## **3. LOCAL AFFILIATION & REGISTRATION FEES:**

It is the responsibility of the Team Captain to inform their Local Union if members of their team belong to another Local Union within their region. Local Union dues dollars should not be used to pay registration fees for members belonging to another Local Union.

Local unions and bowlers should note that there is no obligation for locals or regions to pay expenses for Regional Qualifiers or the UAW International Bowling Finals.

## **4. AVERAGES:**

Regional Qualifying Tournaments and the UAW International Bowling Finals will use a bowler's highest league average -- 21 GAMES OR MORE IN 2024-2025 (refer to City or appropriate Association Yearbook). Averages established in summer leagues will be acceptable only if such averages have been recorded and maintained by the local association secretary and are verifiable. Bring verification from the league secretary.

In case of no 2024-2025 average, said bowler may establish an average by bowling 21 games or more as of December 31, 2025. If an average is established in this manner, the highest established current average at the start of the tournament will be used. Bring verification from the league secretary. All others bowl scratch: men 200, women 165.

When the previous season's average is used, and at the time of the scheduled date of bowling, an entrant has a current average for 21 or more games that is 10 or more pins higher than the prior season's average, the CURRENT AVERAGE MUST BE USED. Bring verification of the current average from the league secretary.

## **5. AVERAGE VERIFICATION AND RE-RATING:**

It shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of their average. It shall be the team captain's responsibility to verify the accuracy of their team averages, whether originally submitted by the bowler, the team captain, or others. Failure to use the proper average or make a correction prior to or at the time of bowling may disqualify the team's score if the submitted average is lower than the actual average. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the actual average (Rule 319A-3).

The Tournament Director will re-rate averages based on prior tournament scores. Bowlers are cautioned to familiarize themselves with the re-rating requirements of USBC Rule #319E and Rule #319. Rule #319 applies to all participants. Any bowler whose average has been re-rated by their local association must use their re-rated average in qualifying and finals tournaments.

Any bowler who has qualified for a prize of \$300 or more in any event in a tournament within the previous 12-month period must report their actual score, position, and amount won at the time of entry and is subject to possible re-rating before bowling. Failure to accurately report averages and/or prize winnings can result in disqualification. If the contestant reports a higher average than the true average, no correction will be made, and they will be handicapped accordingly. If a lower average than the true average is submitted, the contestant may be disqualified and subject to suspension from USBC membership.

**6. HANDICAP:**

Team Handicap basis – 100% (difference between team average and 1,100, 3-game total) added to the total score.

Singles Handicap basis – 90% (difference between average and 220, 3-game total) added to the total score.

In cases of tied scores, the Team or Single bowler with the lowest handicap will be the tie-breaker. If Teams or Single bowlers remain tied, prizes shall be split equally amongst the remaining tied Teams or Single bowlers.

**7. PRIZES:**

Prizes will not be paid until the averages of all winners have been verified. Prize fees will be returned 100% on a ratio of at least one prize for every eight entries or a major fraction thereof.

**8. SUBSTITUTIONS:**

In case of an absence, you may replace a team member with a substitute bowler. To be eligible, the substitute must be a person who bowled in the regional tournament from a non-qualifying team and meet all eligibility requirements. Team Captains may reach out to their Regional Bowling Coordinator for assistance in identifying potential substitute bowlers. The Tournament Director reserves the right to allow substitute bowlers that did not bowl in the regional qualifying tournament in the interest of fairness and fellowship.

The verified average and name of the substitute should accompany the team entry. For a substitute to be eligible for the singles event, he/she must replace a member in the team event. Substitution is limited to three and should be made at least one hour before the start time.

**9. LATE BOWLERS:**

Any player or team, arriving late shall begin play and the score shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled. A bowler who misses one or more frames by not being present and ready to bowl when it is their turn shall not be credited with any pins for frames missed.

**10. GOVERNANCE:**

Any issue not covered by these Tournament rules will be covered by USBC rules. The Tournament Director reserves the right to settle all disputes not covered by these rules or USBC rules.

Any person or persons who violate the rules of this Tournament individually or collectively shall forfeit their paid fees and any and all rights to claim or hold a prize awarded in this Tournament.

For conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Tournament, the Tournament Director may impose such penalties as he/she shall deem necessary, including suspension from the Tournament.

If any of the eligibility rules are not adhered to, bowlers and their team will waive the right to any prize money and forfeit all fees paid.

All bowlers will be checked to determine their UAW Local and Region eligibility (spouses and retirees included). A non-union member will forfeit their entire team from the qualifying tournament.

It shall be the responsibility of each individual to complete and sign the "Bowler Information and Release Form."