

2026-27 PBA JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT RULES

1. The PBA Jr. National Championship Finals and PBA Jr. Regional Qualifier (Regional Qualifier) tournaments are open to all male and female youth bowlers who have not yet reached the age of 18 as of December 31, 2025. All participants must be USBC Youth Members. If a youth bowler is not currently a USBC Youth member, they should contact USBC at 817-385-8426 prior to the start of competition to purchase a membership.
2. The PBA Junior National Championship Regional Qualifiers and PBA Jr. National Championship Finals (PBA Jr. Finals) are certified by the USBC.
3. All scores in this tournament are SCRATCH, no handicap. SMART Scholarships will be awarded (SMART account #10917) on a point basis. See SMART Policy Manual for point conversion.
4. Entry fees shall be as follows:
 - a. **PBA JR. CLUB MEMBERS:** \$129 per bowler
 - b. **REGULAR:** \$179 per bowler
5. **PBA JR. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP REGIONAL QUALIFIERS:**
 - a. **DIVISIONS:** This tournament will have 4 divisions: U18 Boys, U18 Girls, U15 Boys and U15 Girls.
 - i. The division will be determined by the age of the junior bowler as of December 31, 2025.
 - I. U18 bowlers must be age 17 or younger on December 31, 2025.
 - II. U15 bowlers must be age 14 or younger on December 31, 2025.
 - a. Juniors who are age eligible to compete in a U15 division may choose to move up to the U18 division for the Regional Qualifiers if they desire. **IMPORTANT:** U15 bowlers will “declare” their division choice for all of the 2026 calendar year based on the first Regional Qualifier in which they participate. For example, if a U15 age eligible bowler chooses to compete in a U18 division in their first event, they will only be allowed to compete in that same U18 division the entire year. If a U15 age eligible bowler competes in a U15 division in their first event, they may only compete in the U15 division the entire year.
 - b. **NUMBER OF REGIONAL QUALIFIERS:** A minimum of two (2) Regional Qualifiers will be held in each of the five PBA Jr. Regions during the 2026 calendar year, Some Regions may conduct more than two Regional Qualifiers.
 - i. **MILITARY REGIONAL QUALIFIERS:** Should a PBA Jr. Military Regional Qualifier be conducted in the 2026 calendar year, participation is restricted to junior bowlers who have a valid dependent Military ID card.
 - c. **ADVANCEMENT:** The first-place finisher in each division of every Regional Qualifier and Military Regional Qualifier will be eligible to advance to the PBA Jr. National Championship Finals to be held in early 2027.
 - d. **MULTIPLE PARTICIPATION:** Junior bowlers may participate in more than one Regional Qualifier, however they may only earn one (1) spot in the PBA Jr. National Championship Finals.
 - i. If a junior has already earned a spot in the PBA Jr. Finals and participates in a subsequent Regional Qualifier, the junior is eligible to earn the SMART scholarships allocated for the position they place in the final standings.
 - ii. If a junior has already earned a spot in the PBA Jr. Finals, participates in a subsequent Regional Qualifier and finishes in first place, the bowler finishing in second place for that Regional Qualifier will be awarded the spot in the PBA Jr. National Championship Finals. If the second-place bowler has also already earned a spot in the PBA Jr. National Championship Finals, the spot will be awarded to the bowler finishing in third place (and so on).

- e. **PBA JR. JIM WELCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP POINTS:** PBA Jr. Members who participate in any PBA Jr. Regional Qualifier will earn Tier 1 points for the PBA Jr. Jim Welch Memorial Scholarship.
 - f. **DATES & LOCATIONS:** The PBA Jr. National Championship Regional Qualifiers will be held on the dates and locations posted on PBA.com. NOTE: Dates and locations are subject to change.
 - g. **FORMAT (each division):**
 - i. All bowlers will bowl a total of fifteen (15) games of Qualifying in three separate blocks of five (5) games each. Each 5-game block will be contested on a different PBA Jr. oil pattern (PBA Jr. O'Neill – 36 feet; PBA Jr. McEwan – 41 feet; PBA Jr. Tackett – 44 feet).
 - ii. At the conclusion of the three Qualifying Rounds the field will be cut to the top six (6) bowlers in each division. These bowlers will then advance to the Match Play Round. In the event of a tie(s) for the final position for the cut to the Match Play round, a one-game roll-off will take place immediately to break the tie.
 - iii. During the Match Play Round bowlers will compete in six (6) games of Match Play.
 - 1. Bowlers who win their match will receive 30 bonus pins. In the event of a tie, each bowler shall receive 15 bonus pins.
 - 2. Standings will be based on bowler's aggregate scores plus any bonus pins earned.
 - iv. At the conclusion of the Match Play Round, the top bowler in each Division will be declared the PBA Jr. Regional Qualifier Champion and will be eligible to advance to the PBA Jr. National Championship Finals in early 2027 (date and location TBD).
 - 1. In the event of a tie in total pins (including bonus pins) for first place at the end of Match Play, a 9th and 10 frame roll-off will take place to break the tie with the higher seeded bowler choosing who will start the tiebreaker. If a tie still exists after the 9th and 10th frame roll-off, all tied bowlers will compete in a one (1) ball sudden death roll-off. The highest seeded competitor shall determine starting lane and order for the roll-off. The competitors will alternate lanes in the same bowling order until the tie is broken.
 - 2. If the winner is unable to attend the PBA Jr. National Championship Finals the bowler in the next position will be invited.
 - 3. Travel expenses to the National Championship Finals are the responsibility of each family.
6. **PBA JR. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP REGIONAL QUALIFIER SMART SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS**
- a. Added SMART funds will be contributed to each Regional Qualifier. The amount of SMART scholarships added to each division will be determined based on the percentage of entries in each division compared to the overall total number of entries.
 - b. SMART Scholarships will be awarded to all bowlers who advance to the Match Play Round in each division, or at a minimum 1:6 ratio,
7. **PBA JR. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS:**
- a. **LOCATION:** The PBA Junior National Championship Finals will be held at a later date in conjunction with a 2027 PBA National Tour stop. All Finalists will be notified of the location, date and times for the PBA Jr. Finals when that information is available.
 - b. **FORMAT (each division):**
 - i. All bowlers will compete in a Qualifying Round consisting of eight (8) games. At the completion of the Qualifying Round, the top eight (8) bowlers in each division will advance to the Match Play Round.
 - 1. In the event of a tie(s) for the final position for the cut to the Match Play round, a one-game roll-off will take place immediately to break the tie.
 - ii. During the Match Play Round bowlers will compete in eight (8) games of Match Play.
 - 1. Bowlers who win their match will receive 30 bonus pins. In the event of a tie, each bowler shall receive 15 bonus pins.
 - 2. Standings will be based on bowler's aggregate scores plus any bonus pins earned.
 - iii. At the conclusion of Match Play, the field will be cut to the top five (5) bowlers in each division who will advance to the Stepladder Round to determine the Champion.

1. In the event of a tie during any Stepladder match, a 9th and 10 frame roll-off will take place to break the tie with the higher seeded bowler choosing who will start the tiebreaker. If a tie still exists after the 9th and 10th frame roll-off, the bowlers will compete in a one (1) ball sudden death roll-off. The highest seeded competitor shall determine starting lane and order for the roll-off. The competitors will alternate lanes in the same bowling order until the tie is broken.
 2. The winner of the final Stepladder match will be declared the PBA Jr. National Champion for that division.
 - c. PBA JR. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS SMART SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS
 - i. First place in the U18 Boys and U18 Girls Divisions will award a SMART Scholarship valued at 2,000 points. First place in the U15 Boys and U15 Girls Divisions will award a SMART Scholarship valued at 1,000 points.
 - ii. SMART Scholarships will be awarded to all bowlers who advance to the National Championship.
8. DRESS & CONDUCT CODE (Applies to Official Practice Sessions and all Competition):
 - a. All bowlers must wear shirts or jerseys with collars and sleeves and their names on the back. If wearing a dye-sublimated jersey, it must be from a PBA Product Registered Jersey Partner. No t-shirts are allowed.
 - b. Boys must wear slacks (no shorts). Skirts/skortis may be worn in competition by female competitors. If a competitor's fingers are below the hemline (with arms hanging naturally), the skirt/skort is considered too short and not suitable. No jeans or shorts are allowed.
 - c. Bowlers are not permitted to wear hats or other headgear, ripped or torn clothing, or basketball shorts. No clothing with offensive language or graphics, or any apparel which the tournament director feels is inappropriate.
 - d. Smoking is not permitted by bowlers before, during or after the tournament.
 - e. Proper behavior is expected at all times.
9. OIL PATTERNS: The oil patterns used for the Regional Qualifiers will be the three PBA Jr. oil patterns: Bill O'Neill (36 feet), Danielle McEwan (41 feet) and EJ Tackett (44 feet). One or more of these same three patterns will be used for the PBA Jr. Finals and will be announced at least 30 days prior to the start of the event.
10. BOWLING BALLS:
 - a. All bowling balls used during this tournament must be USBC approved and officially cleared by the PBA.
 - i. Bowling balls that have received PBA clearance will be listed on the Registered Products page on PBA.com.
 - ii. If a bowling ball is not listed on PBA.com it may not be used in PBA Jr. competition.
 - b. Bowlers may use an unlimited number of bowling balls during the tournament, but all balls used during the competition must be logged on their official scorecards.
11. PRACTICE:
 - a. Official Practice Sessions will be scheduled for both the PBA Jr. Regional Qualifiers and PBA Jr. Finals. Bowlers are encouraged but not required to attend the Official Practice Session.
 - b. Prior to the start of competition during all Qualifying rounds for both the PBA Jr. Regional Qualifiers and the PBA Jr. National Championship Finals, bowlers will receive 10 minutes of practice on their starting pair of lanes.
 - c. Bowlers will receive 5 minutes of practice on the starting pair of lanes prior to the start of their first match in the Match Play Round of both the PBA Jr. Regional Qualifiers and the PBA Jr. National Championship Finals. No additional practice frames will be allowed prior to any other matches. There will be three (3) minutes of practice prior to the start of the position round of Match Play.
 - d. Practice for the Stepladder matches for the PBA Jr. National Championship Finals will be announced at the start of the event.
12. Only tournament officials and bowlers who are engaged in competition will be permitted in the settee area. Parents and / or coaches must remain on the concourse area.

13. A completed online entry submission must be paid for prior to the entry deadline for the PBA Jr. Regional Qualifier tournaments. Payment of entry fees confirms acceptance of the rules and formats for the PBA Jr. National Championship Regional Qualifiers and Finals.
14. All rules not covered will be governed by the PBA Jr. National Championship Tournament Committee using the PBA and USBC rule books as guidance. The PBA Jr. National Championship Tournament Committee reserves all rights regarding all rules and the operation of the tournament.