

Wendell White's Mile Hi Tour

Junior Bowlers Tour

2026 – 2027

GENERAL RULES & FORMATS

Tour Directors:

Sandy DeBates

Antonio Garcia

Tournament Directors

Mike Lujan

John Kannady

Katie Wearly

DIVISIONS & ELIGIBILITY:

Open to all USBC-certified youth and young adult bowlers who have not reached their 22nd birthday as of August 1st, 2026.

We have three divisions:

HANDICAP DIVISION

Open to all bowlers with a suggested average under 150.

Handicap will be 90% of 175

CLASSIFIED DIVISION - SCRATCH

Open to all bowlers with an average cap of 174; suggested minimum average of 150

OPEN DIVISION – SCRATCH

Open to all bowlers (with any average).

Required division for bowlers with an average of 175 or above; suggested minimum average of 170

ENTERING AVERAGES:

The entering average will be:

1. 2025-2026 Mile Hi Tour average of at least 3 stops
2. 2025-2026 USBC Book average of at least 9 games (highest)
3. Current league average of at least 9 games

Averages based on regular league competition will be adjusted to a sport average per the USBC rulebook.

If none of the above exists, bowlers must bowl in one of the scratch divisions at the director's discretion, or at the director's discretion, the bowler may be allowed to bowl in Handicap Division and receive NO handicap.

All bowlers will establish a tournament average after the first stop bowled and will then use that average for future tournament competition during the current season.

Once a bowler begins a tournament with a right or left-handed delivery, they must finish that tournament with that same delivery or forfeit.

If a bowler, due to injury or a medical issue, must begin a tournament with a different hand than they usually bowl with, they will be treated as a brand-new bowler and must follow the rules above for a bowler with no average. They will be considered a brand-new bowler as well for the determination of averages, divisions, and points.

CHANGING DIVISION:

Bowlers may transfer to a higher division at their own discretion or at the direction of the Tour Directors. However, once a bowler has moved to a higher division, they may not return to a lower division during the same season without prior approval from the Tour Directors.

The only exception to the above division placement is for bowlers who did not participate in at least 3 stops the previous year. In this case, bowlers may be allowed to move divisions based on their average from the first tour stop bowled.

All other division changes due to extenuating circumstances are subject to the director's approval.

After stop 11, BOWLERS WITH MORE THAN 5 STOPS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CHANGE DIVISIONS.

POINT LEADER SYSTEM:

Bowlers will earn points based on where/how they finish qualifying and where/how they finish in post-qualifying, based on gender. Bowlers will earn one point for participating in the tournament and one additional point for each bowler of their own gender they outscore or tie in pre-qualifying. In post-qualifying, bowlers will earn an additional point for making the cut and one additional point for each bowler of their own gender they outscore or tie.

For example, if 10 boys are bowling, the first-place boy receives 10 points. The second-place boy receives 9 points, etc., until the last-place boy receives 1 point.

Bowlers will receive a proportionate number of points in the divisions they did not compete in so that they are not overly punished when changing divisions.

After the last regular stop, leaders will be awarded an additional scholarship.

LANE USAGE:

Starting lane assignments will be made at check-in. During qualifying, bowlers will move one lane pair to the right after each game. During qualifying, the scratch divisions will be interspersed on a set of lanes, and the handicap division will be isolated onto a separate set of lanes. Post-qualifying competition will be conducted with each division on their own set of lanes.

Bowlers wishing to bowl with specific individuals on the same pair are encouraged to check in with those individuals.

DRESS CODE:

Bowlers may wear slacks, dress capris, skirts, skorts, shorts or jeans with a bowling jersey or collared shirt. USBC logo shirts may also be worn.

Jeans, pants, and slacks must be in good condition with no holes, tattered or sagging. For skirts, skorts, and shorts, the length will be no shorter than the bottom of the fingertips when standing with arms down.

ABSOLUTELY NO T-SHIRTS, SWEATPANTS, ATHLETIC WEAR, WARMUP GEAR, LEGGINGS, YOGA PANTS, OR PAJAMAS. NO HEADGEAR ALLOWED! Dress code will be strictly enforced. Non-compliance will result in not being allowed to bowl. First-time bowlers not adhering to this dress code may be warned and allowed to bowl at their first stop, but must adhere to the dress code for future stops. Please remember that this dress code makes our tour look very professional to proprietors and spectators. Exceptions may be made at the director's discretion in health and safety cases.

FEES & AWARD DISTRIBUTION:

Each contestant will pay the following entry fees at each stop where they compete. **BRING YOUR FRIENDS – TURN THEM ON TO THE TOUR!! If a brand-new bowler indicates who brought them in on their information form, we will give an additional \$10.00 bonus scholarship at the end of the year to the bowler indicated (one bowler per form).**

Entry fees are as follows:

	<u>All Stops</u>
Handicap Division	\$45.00
Classified Division	\$50.00
Open Division	\$50.00

Distribution of fees for each stop are as follows: After lineage is paid to the bowling centers, we will distribute at least 50% (rounded up) in scholarships. The remaining fees collected will be used for expenses and supplies, bonus scholarships, and for the championship tournament. Distribution of scholarships will be based on a ratio of at least 1 in 4 bowlers for all divisions.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOLARSHIPS:

Supplemental scholarships may come in various forms, either through sponsorships or through SMART's Available Unassigned Funds.

Sponsorships specific to a tournament (as requested by the sponsor) will be added to the tournament's prize funds, either as a prorated percentage or as directed by the sponsor. Otherwise, those sponsorships will be added to increase our tournament championship scholarships.

Sponsorships related to Brunswick ball raffles will be collected to increase our tournament championship scholarships.

Supplemental Scholarships from returned and unassigned SMART funds will be made available on an appropriate basis and prorated across divisions based on participation.

ATTENDANCE BONUS:

Additional scholarships will be awarded to bowlers who have competed in 11 or more regular tour stops. The bonus amount will be determined on a year-to-year basis.

BONUS SCHOLARSHIPS:

Bonus scholarships may be paid at the director's discretion. An example of a bonus scholarship would be a \$25.00 bonus paid to the male and female bowlers with that week's qualifying high games.

TREVOR KLING SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD:

In conjunction with our sponsors and friends at Brunswick, we will offer an award named for Trevor Kling. Trevor Kling was a young man of courage and distinction. An example to all of us on how to live our lives with dignity and grace. Thank you so much to Trevor, his father, David Kling, and the entire Kling family for being a part of our lives! This scholarship will be \$300.00.

BRACKETS:

If there is enough interest, brackets will be offered for all divisions. **(Brackets will be offered in two sets: for games 1-3, and games 4-6 of the 3-game qualifying blocks for all Scratch divisions. Handicap will be offered for games 2-4 only)** Brackets will be purchased at the time of entry and handled by our tour Directors only from our tour office! Brackets will be returned 100%, and results/statistics will be tracked throughout the year on standing sheets.

JUNIOR GOLD QUALIFIER:

The cost to enter the qualifier:

1. U12 will be \$35
2. U14 will be \$45
3. U16 and U18 will be \$50

Prior to entering the qualifier, the bowler must be registered with USBC with Junior Gold membership.

The qualifier is based on the total pin count for 4 games. This is a scratch qualifier.

A minimum of 4 entries will be required to run the qualifier. Ratio is 1:4 to award a Jr. Gold position. If there are five entries, the second-place finisher will have the opportunity to buy into an additional spot.

The next in line finisher will be listed as an alternate. If the qualifier cannot attend Jr. Gold, the alternate will be offered the spot.

If there are not enough bowlers in a specific division, they may be combined to run a single qualifier regardless of age.

In the event of a tie for the qualifying position, the next bowled game will be used to break the tie. For example, if the qualifying games are 2, 3, 4, and 5. In the event of a tie, game 6 will be used.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Each Mile Hi Tour tournament is considered its own competition, from beginning to end. Therefore, as per U.S.B.C Rule 18 we will not allow the surface of any ball to be altered during competition.

No smoking, vaping, or consumption of alcoholic beverages will be allowed in bowling or spectator areas of any bowling center while the Mile Hi Tour is being conducted.

The use of **electronic devices** during tour play in the bowler area will be monitored by tournament officials. This consists of, but is not limited to: mobile phone, PDA, computer, personal music player, and/or gaming devices. If we feel that the use of such devices is negatively affecting the bowling experience for competitors in the Mile Hi Tour, we will ask the bowler to refrain from using those devices.

All divisions will be available for check-in between 8:00 and 8:55 AM, with bowling beginning at 9:00 AM.

At check-in, you will be required to present entry fees and any brackets you wish to enter.

No person will be allowed to check in until entry fees have been paid; however, you are permitted to sign up others that you wish to bowl with, provided that entry fees are collected for each person you check in by the tournament directors at the time of check-in.

Per USBC rules, no weight holes are allowed in bowling balls.

Balls without a thumbhole must have scribed or engraved crosshair lines (“+”) near the center of the palm to indicate the grip orientation. The ball must be delivered in the marked orientation (i.e., palm must cover the “+”).

Bowlers may be required to show their USBC membership card for the current season.

Any situation not covered in these rules or the USBC rulebook will be handled on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Tournament Directors. The decisions of the Tour Directors are final.

FORMATS:

Handicap Qualifying: In all formats, bowlers will bowl 4 qualifying games, moving one pair to the right after each game.

Scratch Qualifying: For all formats, bowlers will bowl 6 qualifying games, moving one pair to the right after each game.

For all post-qualifying decisions where one bowler gets to decide who will go first and on what lane to use, the decision is made by the higher-placed bowler as of the qualifying round.

STEPLADDER:

After qualifying, the field will be cut to the top half, rounded up. If there are more than 20 bowlers, the cut will be set at 12 bowlers. Minimum cut is 5 bowlers. There will be an additional 3-game semi-final round for all divisions. Semi-final scores will be added to the scores bowled during qualifying. The field will then be cut to the top 5 bowlers for the stepladder finals.

The 5th place bowler bowls the 4th place bowler. The winner bowls the 3rd-place bowler, etc. The incoming bowler, immediately before their match, will be afforded a place to warm up. The bowler coming into the round will be given 2 practice balls on each lane. The incoming bowler will decide who goes first and on what lane.

Ties at the first cut of qualifying will advance to the next level (semi-final) of competition. Ties to determine placing (seeding) will be based on the high game, continuing until the tie is broken. Ties in the post-qualifying matches will require a 9th/10th-frame roll-off.

ELIMINATOR:

After qualifying, cut to the top 16 if there are 20 or more entries and the top 8 if there are fewer than 20 entries. Further rounds will consist of each bowler bowling 1 game and reducing the field by half, with the lower scorers eliminated, until a single bowler remains. Qualifying pinfall does not carry over. **A 9th/10th-frame roll-off will be used to determine advancers in the event of a tie.**

SURVIVOR:

After qualifying, cut to the top 8 bowlers. Additional games are bowled, one at a time. Qualifying pinfall does not carry over. Each game will eliminate the lowest score until one bowler remains. **If there is a tie for the lowest score, a 9th/10th frame roll-off will occur to determine who survives. Ties in the qualifying round to determine who moves on will require a 9th/10th-frame roll-off.**

CONDUCT:

Unsportsmanlike or impolite behavior by tour bowlers and spectators will not be tolerated! If such behavior is witnessed by any tour Director, the bowler or spectator may be warned or asked to leave the tournament immediately and will forfeit any fees paid for that tournament stop. If bad behavior persists, tour Directors have the right to suspend bowlers from future tour stops or to forbid a spectator from attending any tour stops. Spectators who witness such behavior are welcome to report it to tournament staff.

Only bowlers, Tour Officials, qualified volunteers, and bowling center personnel are permitted in the settee areas at any time during the competition – NO EXCEPTIONS!

Coaching or any conversation with spectators by bowlers must not alter, interfere with, or slow down tournament play. No coaching allowed in the settee area by spectators – NO EXCEPTIONS!

FINAL STOP:

There are two ways to qualify for the “Championship Stop”.

1. Bowlers who have competed at least 8 stops.
2. Bowlers who have won a regular tournament stop.

If a bowler started bowling a stop and dropped out due to illness or injury, they will be considered as having bowled that stop.

Any exceptions to these rules are at the discretion of Mile Hi Tour Management.