

## **PHYLLIS NOTARO, USBC HALL OF FAME MEMBER, DIES AT 91**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Phyllis Notaro, a United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame member from Brant, New York, died Monday, Dec. 30, at Orchard Heights Assisted Living. She was 91.

Elected to the USBC Hall of Fame for Superior Performance in 1979, Notaro won the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) All-Star Match Play Tournament in 1961 and had three other top-10 finishes at the event.

She teamed with Jessie Miller to capture the 1966 BPAA National Doubles title.

Notaro made the finals at the World's Invitational Tournament five times, finishing second in 1957 and fifth in both 1958 and 1959.

She competed on the Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour, with a high finish of second at the 1964 Billy Simon Oak Hill Classic in San Antonio. She had 11 other top-10 finishes in PWBA events, including a fifth-place finish at the 1970 event in Rochester, New York, where she had a 1,412 six-game series to set a then-national women's record.

She first garnered national attention with a 289 game in singles at the 1952 United States Bowling Congress Women's Championships, a record that stood until 1962, on her way to a second-place finish. More than two decades later, she captured a Women's Championships title, winning the 1975 team title as captain of the team sponsored by the Atlanta Bowling Center.

She competed in 55 Women's Championships, with her final appearance coming at the 2004 event in Wichita, Kansas.

Born March 1, 1928, in Brant, she started her bowling career in the Buffalo suburb in 1946. She won 14 New York State championship titles and 26 Buffalo city titles in her career. She was elected to the All-American Women's Team in 1958 and 1961, and earned the Women's International Bowling Congress (now part of USBC) National High Average Award in 1962 with a 201 average.

In addition to the USBC Hall of Fame, she was elected to the Buffalo Women's Bowling Association (1986) and the Buffalo Sports (1993) Halls of Fame.

Visitation is scheduled for Friday from 3 p.m.- 7 p.m. at the Addison Funeral Home located at 262 North Main Street in Angola, New York, with a service at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in Most Precious Blood

Church in Angola. Flowers gratefully declined, memorial may be made to either Hospice Buffalo, Inc. or Orchard Heights.

## **CHAMPIONS DETERMINED AT 2020 USBC TEAM USA TRIALS, U.S. AMATEUR**

**LAS VEGAS** - Whether your preference is a storybook or the record book, the 2020 United States Bowling Congress Team USA Trials offered something for everyone, providing a memorable mix of entertainment and milestones.

USBC Hall of Famer Kelly Kulick of Union, New Jersey, entered the event wanting to prove she still has what it takes to perform on the national stage, and she did so with a record-setting performance on the way to a second consecutive USBC Team USA Trials victory.

Matt Russo's journey to the men's title was a tale of redemption and romance, as he found his way back to Team USA after a year away. He'll be leaving Las Vegas not only with the coveted Team Trials trophy, but also with a fiancée - who happened to qualify for Team USA, as well.

Breanna Clemmer of Clover, South Carolina, found her way into the spotlight for the second time, too, successfully defending her title at the United States National Amateur Bowling Championships, while young left-hander Cameron Crowe of Orland Park, Illinois, will return to The Prairie State as the men's U.S. Amateur champion and a member of both Team USA and Junior Team USA.

Kulick finished the 2020 Team USA Trials with a record 13 ranking points, accumulated over five days on five World Bowling lane conditions, varying from 33 to 45 feet.

Players earned points based on where they finished in the daily standings. The leader received one point, second place earned two points and so on, with the lowest number of ranking points after the five six-game blocks determining the 2020 Team Trials champions.

Over the five rounds, Kulick finished first, first, seventh, first and third, and her point total bested the previous women's record of 24, posted by longtime Team USA member Danielle McEwan on the way to the 2016 Team Trials title.

Tuesday's win at the Gold Coast Bowling Center earned Kulick a spot on Team USA for the 16th time, and, at 42, the right-hander is the oldest woman to win the event, besting the mark she set in the same venue last year.

"I have no inclination of where this performance came from, but I really just stopped thinking so much along the way, which might have been the key," Kulick said. "I think

the coach in me makes me too analytical at times, but I didn't let it get in my way this week. My goal was to make the team again and enjoy the perks that go with it, along with getting to go back to the World Cup and share that experience with Matt Russo. I've still got gas left in the tank and fire in me that wants to win every time I put on my shoes.

"There have been some rough patches along the way this past year, and I don't know what 2020 will bring, but coming here and finding success against this talented field the way I did was unfathomable. I didn't look at scores or standings and just stayed within myself. I focused on a free swing and posting my shot, and I think it probably was one of the smartest tournaments I've ever bowled."

Russo, the 2017 U.S. Amateur champion and a two-time member of Team USA, accumulated 51 ranking points this week, 45 of which came on the second day of the event. The other four days, he finished first, second, first and second, respectively.

The 23-year-old left-hander returns to Team USA after failing to qualify for a third consecutive appearance in 2019.

"It's crazy to think about the last few years and the things I've accomplished, and it feels amazing, but I don't know that what happened this week has sunk in yet," said Russo, who added to the memorable week by proposing to new Team USA member Lauren Pate, who accepted. "It feels like all the hard work I've put in this year has paid off, and it all feels incredible, on and off the lanes. I couldn't have asked for a better week."

All four champions Tuesday earned automatic spots on Team USA, with Kulick and Russo also getting the chance to represent the United States at the 2020 QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup, which will be held in Kuwait.

Just over a month ago, Kulick returned from the 2019 QubicaAMF World Cup, where she finished tied for third place. Getting a shot at redemption at the prestigious event was an additional motivator for her as she prepared for the 2020 Team Trials.

After the final qualifying round at the Team Trials, the top three amateur men and top three amateur women in the overall standings advanced to a stepladder to determine the U.S. Amateur champions.

Clemmer, a 22-year-old right-hander, wasted no time setting the pace in the women's final against Cayla Hicks of Salem, Virginia, tossing five consecutive strikes after a first-frame spare. She rolled to a 233-192 victory.

Clemmer will make her second consecutive appearance on Team USA, which follows five years on Junior Team USA.

"I went into the final match with a lot of nerves and hoping to see all the work and preparation pay off, while also overcoming some of the mental challenges I've had and

been working on, too," Clemmer said. "I told myself I was going to be the 2020 U.S. Amateur champion, I believed it and that's what happened. I had some special people behind me tonight, and my grandparents have worked really hard to allow me to come out here and live my dream, so this is for them."

Crowe, 18, piled on the strikes in the men's final, defeating 17-year-old left-hander Solomon Salama of Beverly Hills, California, 269-215. Salama, a member of both Team USA and Junior Team USA in 2019, finished third in the U.S. Amateur Championships last year.

"This is so surreal, and never in a million years could I have imagined this would happen," Crowe said. "Even knowing the hard work and time and dedication I put into this, this is more than I could've expected. Making both teams and winning the U.S. Amateur title - this is one of the best weeks of my life."

"I am most looking forward to meeting new people and growing as an individual and as a bowler. I feel like we're all going to bond and help each other and feed off each other, and it's going to be a really good year for Team USA."

In the U.S. Amateur semifinals, Hicks started with a pair of open frames but struck on six of her last seven shots to get past Paige Peters of Toms River, New Jersey, 203-173.

Salama closed with five strikes and forced Alex Glinski of Linfield, Pennsylvania, to throw three strikes in his final frame for a tie. He got the first strike but left a 7 pin on his second offering, and Salama escaped with a 228-217 victory.

By virtue of their finishes among the top four in the Team Trials standings, Michael Martell of Chicago, Crowe and Kyle Sherman of O'Fallon, Missouri, also earned automatic berths on Team USA.

Since Crowe went on to win the U.S. Amateur title and automatic bid, a spot went to now three-time Team USA member Nick Pate of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, who finished fifth in the overall Team Trials standings.

In addition to Kulick, Sydney Brummett of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Lauren Pate of Inver Grove Heights and Clemmer earned automatic spots on Team USA for their top-four finishes in the Team Trials.

Because Clemmer went on to win the women's U.S. Amateur title, a spot on Team USA was awarded to fifth-place Team Trials finisher Shannon O'Keefe of Shiloh, Illinois, who has been on the team each year since 2005.

Andrew Anderson of Holly, Michigan, and AJ Johnson of Oswego, Illinois, were selected by the National Selection Committee to join the men's team for 2020 based on their performances this week.

Kyle Troup of Taylorsville, North Carolina, Marshall Kent of Yakima, Washington, EJ Tackett of Huntington, Indiana, Kristopher Prather of Plainfield, Illinois, and Jakob Butturff of Tempe, Arizona, were selected by the National Selection Committee to join Team USA 2020 based on submitted resumes.

Julia Bond of Aurora, Illinois, Bryanna Coté of Red Rock, Arizona, Gazmine Mason of Cranston, Rhode Island, Shannon Pluhowsky of Dayton, Ohio, and Missy Parkin of Laguna Hills, California, were selected by the National Selection Committee to join the women's team based on their performances this week.

Danielle McEwan of Stony Point, New York, Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York, Jordan Richard of Tecumseh, Michigan, Josie Barnes of Nashville, Tennessee, and Stefanie Johnson of McKinney, Texas, were added to the 2020 Team USA roster by the National Selection Committee based on submitted resumes.

Age-eligible participants competing this week also were vying for spots on Junior Team USA 2020.

Earning automatic spots on the boys' team based on their overall performances were Crowe, Salama, Glinski and Briley Haugh of Faribault, Minnesota.

Spencer Robarge of Springfield, Missouri, TJ Rock of Henderson, Nevada, Tyrell Ingalls of Loganville, Georgia, and Cortez Schenck of Phoenix were chosen by the National Selection Committee to join Junior Team USA 2020 based on their performances at the 2020 Team USA Trials and 2019 Junior Gold Championships.

They join the six boys who qualified for Junior Team USA through the 2019 Junior Gold Championships - Anthony Neuer, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania; Cerell Cardines, Las Vegas; Joey Ocello, Neptune, New Jersey; Peyton Smith, Loganville, Georgia; Daniel Chin, Daly City, California; and Alec Keplinger, Coldwater, Michigan.

The automatic spots on the girls' team went to Paige Peters, Annalise OBryant of Ball Ground, Georgia, Cassidy Courey of Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, and Maryssa Carey of Hobart, Indiana.

Crystal Elliot of Palm Bay, Florida, Kameran Peters of Toms River and Mabel Cummins of Antioch, Tennessee, were selected for the girls team based on performance.

They join six girls who earned their spots during the 2019 Junior Gold Championships - Jillian Martin, Stow, Ohio; Elise Chambers, Ocoee, Florida; Faith Welch, Savannah, Tennessee; Angelique Dalesandro, Rolling Meadows, Illinois; Taylor Davis, Burton, Michigan; and Patricia Rosales, Orlando, Florida.

To be eligible for the U.S. Amateur, a bowler must not hold or have held a professional membership (PBA or PWBA) in 2019. Also, anyone who has won a professional title

(regional, national or senior) as a professional was not eligible to compete as an amateur.

Bowlers age 20 or younger as of Jan. 1, 2020 were eligible for spots on Junior Team USA this week.

Competitors from Junior Gold also were slated for the U17 and U15 Developmental Team for 2020.

The U17 squad will include - Jennifer Loreda, Fresno, California; Amanda Naujokas, Lake Ronkonkoma, New York; Angelo Biondo, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; and Cameron Hurwitz, Rochester, New York.

The players selected for the U15 team are - OBryant, Elizabeth Coutta, Smyrna, Tennessee; Randal Dunbar, Milford, Maine; and John Nunn, Jacksonville, Florida.

All 339 competitors at the 2020 Team USA Trials bowled 30 games over five days (six games each day).

BowlTV (BowlTV.com) provided wire-to-wire coverage of the events, including the announcement of Team USA and Junior Team USA 2020.

Visit [BOWL.com/TeamUSA](http://BOWL.com/TeamUSA) for more information about the Team USA program.

For more information on the USBC Team USA Trials, visit [BOWL.com/TeamUSATrials](http://BOWL.com/TeamUSATrials).

## **2020 USBC Team USA Trials At Gold Coast Bowling Center, Las Vegas**

### **OVERALL RESULTS**

**(Position, name, hometown, total points. Points based on finishing position in each round).**

#### **MEN**

- 1, Matt Russo, Fairview Heights, Ill., 51
- 2, Michael Martell, Chicago, 76
- 3, Cameron Crowe, Orland Park, Ill., 85
- 4, Kyle Sherman, O'Fallon, Mo., 97
- 5, Nick Pate, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., 101
- 6, Solomon Salama, Beverly Hills, Calif., 123
- 7, Corey Umbrello, Westminister, Mass., 130

- 8, Alex Glinski, Linfield, Pa., 138
- 9, Andrew Anderson, Holly, Mich., 151
- 10, Briley Haugh, Faribault, Minn., 153
- 11, AJ Johnson, Oswego, Ill., 157
- 12, Darren Tang, Las Vegas, 159
- 13, Greg Young Jr., Rockledge, Fla., 171
- 14, Sean Wilcox, Altamonte Springs, Fla., 173
- 15, Steven Kotowski, Clark, N.J., 175
- 16, Brandon Runk, Enola, Pa., 183
- 17, Spencer Robarge, Springfield, Mo., 184
- 18, Ryan Winters, Livonia, Mich., 190
- 19, TJ Rock, Henderson, Nev., 193
- 20, Chad Stephen, Flint, Mich., 202

## **WOMEN**

- 1, Kelly Kulick, Union, N.J., 13
- 2, Sydney Brummett, Fort Wayne, Ind., 42
- 3, Lauren Pate, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., 53
- 4, Breanna Clemmer, Clover, S.C., 59
- 5, Shannon O'Keefe, Shiloh, Ill., 60
- 6, Julia Bond, Aurora, Ill., 74
- 7, Bryanna Coté, Red Rock, Ariz., 98
- 8, Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I., 111
- 9, Cayla Hicks, Salem, Va., 113
- 10, Shannon Pluhowsky, Dayton, Ohio, 122
- 11, Missy Parkin, Laguna Hills, Calif., 145
- 12, Jordan Richard, Tecumseh, Mich., 152
- T13, Paige Peters, Toms River, N.J., 154
- T13, Adel Wahner, Las Cruces, N.M., 154
- 15, Annalise OBryant, Ball Ground, Ga., 159
- 16, Caitlyn Johnson, Lake Wales, Fla., 160
- 17, Ashley Rucker, Bartlesville, Okla., 177
- 18, Stefanie Johnson, McKinney, Texas, 179
- 19, Jillian Martin, Stow, Ohio, 185
- 20, Cassidy Courey, Brooklyn Center, Minn., 188

## **U.S. AMATEUR STEPLADDER FINALS**

### **MEN**

#### **Semifinal**

Solomon Salama, Beverly Hills, Calif., def. Alex Glinski, Linfield, Pa., 228-217

#### **Championship**

Cameron Crowe, Orland Park, Ill., def. Salama, 269-215

## **WOMEN**

### **Semifinal**

Cayla Hicks, Salem, Va., def. Paige Peters, Toms River, N.J., 203-173

### **Championship**

Breanna Clemmer, Clover, S.C., def. Hicks, 233-192

## **TEAM USA MEMBER NICK PATE JOINS USBC BOARD**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Nick Pate of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, has been elected as an athlete representative to the United States Bowling Congress Board of Directors.

Pate takes over the position held by former Team USA member Rhino Page, who stepped down to focus on new business opportunities within the bowling industry. Page has served on the USBC Board for five years.

“I appreciate the opportunity given to me by my fellow athletes to serve on the USBC Board,” Pate, 25, said. “Bowling has given me so much, and I’m excited to take part in helping lead our sport in the future.”

Pate was selected by the USBC Athletes Advisory Council to complete Page’s three-year term, which runs through July 31, 2020.

USBC Bylaws, in accordance with United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) requirements as the National Governing Body of the sport, state at least 20 percent of the USBC Board must be comprised of Team USA athletes, who are to be elected by Team USA athletes.

Pate is a three-time member of Team USA (2017, 2019, 2020), earning a spot on this year’s team with a fifth-place finish at the USBC Team Trials. He made the 2019 team with a third-place finish, earned one of two men’s spots, along with Jakob Butturff, on Team USA for the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, Peru, and won the gold medal in both singles and doubles at the event.

He also was a member of the team that captured gold at the Pan Am Bowling Men’s Championships in 2019, also in Lima.

Pate joined the Professional Bowlers Association Tour in 2018 and finished third at the Lubbock Sports Open, his top finish that season. He cashed in 15 of 27 events in 2019, posting a 212 average.

He went Midland University, earning a bachelor's degree in psychology, and competed on the men's bowling team. He won the 2017 Intercollegiate Singles Championships title and was the 2016-2017 National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association (NCBCA) Most Valuable Player.

He also helped Midland to a runner-up finish at the 2015 Intercollegiate Team Championships, earning NCBCA first-team All-American honors that season.

Visit [BOWL.com/Board](http://BOWL.com/Board) to learn more about the USBC Board of Directors.

## **2020 BOWL EXPO TO HOST PWBA/PBA MIXED DOUBLES SPECIAL EVENT WITH LIVE COVERAGE ON FS1**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – International Bowl Expo, the bowling industry's largest annual gathering, will host a special made-for-TV event featuring the biggest names on the sport's professional tours.

Members of the Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) and Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) will team for a mixed doubles event at 2020 International Bowl Expo, which will be held at the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center in Denver in July.

The PWBA/PBA Mixed Doubles will be televised live on Sunday, July 5, at 8 p.m. (Eastern) on FS1.

The two-hour show will have four mixed doubles teams representing the biggest brands in the sport – Brunswick, Hammer, Motiv, Storm – and Brunswick will build two lanes, featuring their new Spark™ technology, for the event.

“Bowl Expo is the biggest annual event for the bowling industry and what a great way to showcase the highest levels of competition in our sport,” said Randy Thompson, president of the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA), the host organization of Bowl Expo. “To have the best bowlers in the world on a nationally televised TV show, on a Sunday, allows the bowling community to celebrate the passion and commitment we all have for the sport.”

The PWBA/PBA Mixed Doubles teams for the event are:

- Brunswick – Dasha Kovalova and Dom Barrett
- Hammer – Shannon O'Keefe and Bill O'Neill
- Motiv – Maria José Rodriguez and EJ Tackett

- Storm – Danielle McEwan and Jason Belmonte

O’Keefe won her second consecutive PWBA Player of the Year title while Belmonte was the PBA Player of the Year for the fifth time in 2019. Each of the eight participants has won a major title in their career, with Belmonte having a record 11 career major titles.

“This will be a fantastic event for Bowl Expo attendees, the national TV audience and for our sport,” said Colie Edison, CEO of the PBA. “The PBA Tour has seen tremendous viewership growth through our partnership with FOX Sports and this special event is a tremendous addition to the schedule. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with BPAA and the PWBA Tour on this.”

FOX Sports and its family of channels are the television partner for the 2020 Go Bowling! PBA Tour.

The PWBA/PBA Mixed Doubles will have two semifinal matches, with matchups determined by blind draw. The semifinals will be one-game matches using the Baker format, in which the bowlers will alternate each frame. The first competitor on the team bowls frames 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and the second team member bowls frames 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, with the winning teams to bowl for the title.

College bowling and the scholarships offered in the sport also will be featured at Bowl Expo during the television show. A special roll-off featuring the 2020 Intercollegiate Singles Championships (ISC) winners will be held between the semifinals and title match of the PWBA/PBA Mixed Doubles.

The ISC boys champion and ISC girls champion each will get one roll on the TV lanes. If the player rolls strike on their one attempt, they will be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship.

International Bowl Expo will take place July 2-6 with the TV show to be held immediately following the first day of the event’s trade show on July 5. All Bowl Expo attendees will be able to attend the event as part of their Bowl Expo registration.

The PWBA Tour is a collaborate effort of BPAA and the United States Bowling Congress (USBC). Visit [PWBA.com](https://www.pwba.com) to learn more.

The PBA Tour has more than 3,000 members from 27 countries competing in its competitions each year. Visit [PBA.com](https://www.pba.com) for more information.

Bowl Expo is the annual industry event hosted by BPAA, featuring educational seminars, trade show, national speakers, entertainment and more. Visit [BPAA.com/BowlExpo](https://www.bpaa.com/BowlExpo) to learn more.

## **WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS SURVEY SHOWS ALL-TIME HIGH SATISFACTION; EVENT AVERAGES TO BE USED IN 2021**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Satisfaction with the United States Bowling Congress Women's Championships is at an all-time high and, because survey results from 2019 participants show a majority favor using Championships Average as the entering average at the event, that change will take effect for the 2021 tournament in the Chicago area.

The survey also showed more than 91 percent of respondents plan to bowl the 2020 event in Las Vegas. The 2020 Women's Championships will be held at the South Point Bowling Plaza in Las Vegas from April 18 through July 6 and more than 4,500 teams already have registered.

The 2019 Women's Championships, the 100th edition of the event, was contested at Northrock Lanes in Wichita, Kansas, and was the first to be held in a bowling center since 2008.

For the survey, bowlers were asked if they would be in favor of using their Women's Championships average, instead of league average, as the entering average for the event. While the majority (53%) were in favor, an increase from last season (47%), the highest percentages came from participants in the top two divisions – Diamond (71%) and Ruby (64%). The Diamond Division is for bowlers who average 190 or higher, while the Ruby is for averages between 175-189.

With the majority in favor of using Championships Average, that change now will be put in place starting in 2021. The USBC Open Championships began using Championships Average for its event last year and a survey of participants to the 2019 event showed 87% either agree or didn't have an opinion regarding the use of Championships Average as the entering average.

For the 2019 Women's Championships survey, bowlers also were asked about the difficulty of the lane patterns and whether the lane patterns should be kept secret until after the event.

Regarding the lane conditions, 81% of bowlers agreed or didn't have an opinion as to whether the lane pattern was appropriate for the national tournament. As for keeping the lane patterns secret, 85% of bowlers agreed or did not have an opinion.

Overall, satisfaction with the event operations is at an all-time high with 84% to 96% of bowlers either satisfied or neutral when asked about key areas such as customer service, pace of play, online registration, event operations, schedule, lane conditions, and host city and venue.

Looking ahead to the move to Championships Average in 2021, bowlers will use their Women's Championships tournament average, for the most recent 27 games, as their entering average. The event will maintain the same division structure (Diamond, Ruby,

Emerald, Sapphire, Amethyst, Topaz) but the average parameters will be adjusted to align with the use of Challenge averages.

For bowlers who do not have a qualifying Championships Average, their qualifying league average will be converted to Challenge using the appropriate Challenge Average Adjustment Chart that is available on [BOWL.com/SportBowling](http://BOWL.com/SportBowling).

The average range for each division will be posted when the 2021 Women's Championships rules are released, and coming soon, the Find A Member application on BOWL.com will show Championships Average for Women's Championships participants.

The 2019 Women's Championships survey was conducted between April 21 and Sept. 1, 2019. With 16,432 bowlers in the Women's Championships, 2,746 responses to the survey, and a confidence interval of 95%, it is estimated the survey has a margin of error of +/- 2%.

Visit [BOWL.com/WomensChamp](http://BOWL.com/WomensChamp) to learn more about the Women's Championships.

## **USBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCES CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHAD MURPHY**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** - Chad Murphy has agreed to a contract extension to continue as Executive Director of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC).

The agreement extends Murphy's tenure as executive director through the end of 2024. He first was named executive director in June of 2014.

"Through Chad Murphy's leadership, USBC has continued to deliver more new initiatives and greater value for our members," USBC President Karl Kielich said. "I am especially proud of the stronger relationships developed between USBC and our association leaders, as well as the bowling industry. The USBC Board of Directors has great confidence in the staff, and this extension shows our desire to continue this positive trajectory for years to come."

Reporting to the USBC Board of Directors, the USBC Executive Director serves as an officer of the corporation and has overall operational responsibility for staff, programs, finance and execution of the strategic plan.

During Murphy's tenure, USBC has delivered major new initiatives including:

- \* Record participation in Junior Gold and USBC Collegiate programs
- \* USA Bowling Youth Championships
- \* A successful structure change and growth for the USBC Open Championships

- \* New host cities for the USBC Championship Tournaments, including Chicago and Cincinnati for the Women's Championships and Houston for the Open Championships
- \* Growth across elite level USBC Championship tournaments
- \* Relaunch of the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour and introduction of the PWBA regional program
- \* Partnership with the Professional Bowlers Association to have the USBC Masters and U.S. Open included with the PBA Tour's FOX Sports package through 2022.
- \* A 17-event CBS Sports Network package
- \* Launch of the BowlTV.com video streaming platform
- \* Technology advancements, including a custom registration system for USBC tournaments
- \* USBC Association Leadership Academy, which provides education opportunities to USBC associations
- \* Merger of USBC state and local associations
- \* Forward looking changes to bowling ball specification and lane inspection standards
- \* Gold medals for Team USA in the World Championships, Pan American Games and QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup.

Murphy first joined the International Bowling Campus (IBC) in 2010 as Director of Youth for the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA). He became IBC Director of Youth Development in 2011, at which time he also assumed management of USBC's youth programs.

He is a former member of Team USA, and his playing honors include a silver medal at the 1998 World Tenpin Team Cup in Amsterdam. He also was part of the Ebonite Nitro/R's team that won two Grand Championships in the Brunswick World Team Challenge Series in 1994 and 1996.

## **BPAA TO HONOR NEIL HUPFAUER WITH VICTOR LERNER MEMORIAL MEDAL**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) is proud to announce the recipients of the 2020 Bowling Industry Service Awards, the most prestigious awards presented by the association.

Award winners will be honored during 2020 International Bowl Expo, which will be held July 2-6 at the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center in Denver.

**Neil Hupfauer** (Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas) has been selected as the 2020 BPAA Hall of Fame Inductee and recipient of the Victor Lerner Memorial Medal. The Lerner Medal is the highest honor awarded by the BPAA and recognizes an individual for a lifetime of service to the bowling industry. It also represents the recipient's induction into BPAA

Hall of Fame, located at the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame in Arlington.

Hupfauer is cited for his revolutionary Family Entertainment Center (FEC) concept, after recognizing the traditional bowling center model may not be the future of the bowling industry. After developing and selling the Main Event Entertainment chain, he did not find retirement suitable and became COO for Cinergy Entertainment, which incorporated bowling lanes with movie theatres. Even today, he continues to work hard and seek new avenues for bowling.

**Roger Philipi** (Huntersville, North Carolina) will receive the coveted V.A. Wapensky Award, named after BPAA's longtime chief executive officer, "Chief" Wapensky. Philipi is being recognized for years of service to the industry at the local, state and national levels. He also has been instrumental in implementing numerous bowling programs, including the NFL Super Bowl Charity Bowling Event.

**Andy Bartholomy** (Springfield, Missouri) will be given the President's Award by BPAA President Randy Thompson. The President's Award is presented to an individual who has provided exceptional support and service to the association in the eyes of the president. Andy B's decade-long leadership of the Member Benefits committee and willingness to share his knowledge with fellow proprietors made him a clear choice for this year's award.

**Tim Mack** (Indianapolis) will be recognized with the Dick Weber Bowling Ambassador Award, named after the legendary bowling icon, recognizing his many contributions to the game and sport of bowling, both on and off the lanes. After years of bowling internationally, Mack became a player services representative and international ambassador for Storm, and continues to share his passion for bowling.

**Daroll and Dolores Frewing** (Chino, California) will be recognized with the Special Projects award for setting up a generous scholarship fund that will provide an annual college scholarship for a child or grandchild of a BPAA-member proprietor. Having played an integral part in the bowling manufacturing and installation business since 1959, the Frewings are proud of their relationships with proprietors and to have the opportunity to give back.

**Tom Clark** (Milwaukee) will receive the 2020 Media Award. As commissioner of the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA), Clark has developed media products such as PBA Xtra Frame, but most significantly in the last year secured the PBA on FOX Sports television deal, resulting in an 85-percent increase in television viewership its first year.

**The Sarasota Manatee USBC Association** (Sarasota, Florida) will be recognized at the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Convention with the BPAA USBC Association Award, presented to a local USBC association that has demonstrated a high degree of cooperation with their local BPAA proprietor group. The relationship between BPAA and local USBC associations is critical since local associations

represent the consumer and BPAA member centers are the playing fields for bowling. The BPAA appreciates how local USBC associations work with our member centers and acknowledges these relationships when they are exemplary.

“The BPAA is pleased to honor these award recipients for their outstanding service to the industry and hope they inspire others to share their passion for bowling,” said Thompson, who also chairs the BPAA Awards Committee.

The Bowling Industry Service Awards will be presented at the Annual Awards Luncheon on Saturday, July 4, during International Bowl Expo 2020 at the Gaylord Rockies in Denver. The Lerner Memorial Medal presentation will take place during the general session on Sunday morning.

Visit [BPAA.com/BowlExpo](https://www.bpaa.com/BowlExpo) to learn more about International Bowl Expo 2020.

## **FIVE CANDIDATES SLATED FOR USBC BOARD ELECTION; 14 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO BE DECIDED**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Bowling Congress Nominating Committee has slated five candidates for the USBC Board of Directors election, and delegates also will vote on 14 legislative proposals at the 2020 USBC Convention and Annual Meeting.

The 2020 USBC Convention will take place April 27-30 at The Orleans in Las Vegas, with the Annual Meeting legislative sessions to take place on the final day.

Delegates will vote to fill three open positions on the USBC Board of Directors. The USBC Nominating Committee, which may slate up to two candidates for each opening, set a slate of five candidates:

- Glenda Beckett, Palmetto Bay, Florida
- Bruce Hall, Westborough, Massachusetts
- Chrissy Lee, Tampa, Florida
- Adam Mitchell, Centreville, Virginia
- Tina Williams, Pflugerville, Texas

Beckett has been the Greater Miami USBC Association Manager since 2012 and became a director on the Florida State USBC board in 2018, where she currently serves as chair of the Legal and Legislative Committee and is a member of the Charity Committee.

Hall, who was a senior director at Dell Technologies before retiring in 2018, has more than 40 years as an executive in the IT, consumer, and industrial design and

manufacturing. He owns two PBA Regional titles and won a PBA50 Regional title in 2019.

Lee, who recently relocated from New Jersey to Florida, has taught pre-school for more than 25 years. She served on state and local boards for more than 20 years, including five years as the Monmouth County (N.J.) USBC president.

Mitchell, the only incumbent of the slated candidates, is completing his first term on the USBC national board. He chairs the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and also serves on the Legal, Legislative, and Strategic Planning committees. He is Chief Executive Officer of Global Solutions Inc., a company he started in 2013.

Williams has worked in finance and operations for Make-A-Wish for more than 10 years, performing all accounting and payroll functions. She was a Team USA member in 2007 and 2008, and a three-time All-American at West Texas A&M.

In addition to Mitchell's expiring term, two board members are completing their final terms, having reached the term limit. Both USBC President Karl Kielich and director Jo Dimond began their service on the board during the 2011-2012 season and will complete their final terms in July.

Additional candidates for the USBC Board may run from the floor, provided they give notice of their candidacy to the committee by March 30, 2020. Go to [BOWL.com/Convention](https://www.bowl.com/convention) for the Nomination from the Floor information.

Of the 14 proposed amendments to be voted on by delegates at the USBC Annual Meeting, eight relate to bylaws, five are for tournament rules and one proposed amendment is for a league rule. Bylaws proposals require a two-thirds majority vote for adoption while league and tournament rules require a majority vote to pass.

Visit [BOWL.com/Convention](https://www.bowl.com/convention) for more information about the 2020 USBC Convention and Annual Meeting, including the proposed legislation.

## **RECIPIENTS SELECTED FOR 2020 USBC NATIONAL RECOGNITION AWARDS**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The recipients of the 2020 United States Bowling Congress National Recognition Awards have been determined by the USBC Board of Directors.

Dave Bowers of Cayce, South Carolina, was selected to receive the Helen Baker Award for Outstanding Association Service, Teri Haugh of Faribault, Minnesota, is the Joyce Deitch Unity Award recipient, and JoAnn West of New Braunfels, Texas, is the USBC Proprietor of the Year.

Each year at the USBC Convention, outstanding bowling leaders are honored for their contributions to the sport. This year's recipients, who were selected from submitted applications, will receive their awards in April at the 2020 USBC Convention in Las Vegas.

Bowers has been involved in bowling at the national, state and local for more than 40 years, starting as a league secretary/treasurer in 1973, before becoming a director with the Greater Columbus Bowling Association (GCBA) in 1976.

Currently the second vice president on the South Carolina Association state board, a big part of Bowers' service to bowling has been at the youth level. He started with the Greater Columbia Junior Bowling Association, and was recruited to be the secretary/treasurer of the state youth association in 1976.

He has been the director of the South Carolina State Youth tournament for more than four decades, in addition to serving on his local association youth committee. In the early 1980s, he served on the national rules, regulations-awards and funding committee as youth national programs united to form the Young American Bowling Alliance (YABA).

He is a member of the Greater Columbia Bowling Association (1989), South Carolina State Bowling Association (1995) and South Carolina State Youth (2003) Halls of Fame.

"To receive this award named after one of the great ambassadors and contributors to bowling and the bowling family is truly exceptional," Bowers said. "I realize I would not be in this position without the support of my family and my bowling family, who have been so supportive throughout the years."

Haug, the Joyce Deitch Unity Award recipient, currently serves on the Minnesota State USBC board as the youth representative, a position she has held since 2015. She has been a coach and promoter of youth bowling in Minnesota and the upper Midwest for more than 30 years.

A USBC Silver coach, she was named to the Bowlers Journal 100 Top Coaches list in 2012 through 2014 before changing her focus from the national to the regional level. She launched the United States Bowling Academy in 2011, an organization of bowling industry professionals who have a common interest of promoting the sport. The USBA is focused on providing coaching, training coaches, and working with centers on programs to increase participation.

Haug also provides youth scholarship tournaments and Junior Gold qualifiers through the USBA Flight Tournaments, which now cover eight states and has awarded more than \$140,000 in scholarships. It was her vision to start the Midwest Collegiate Bowling Experience and Expo in 2013 to showcase youth bowlers and college coaches.

“This award means the world to me,” Haugh said. “It gives me the enormous platform, in which to thank the village of people, helping to bring all that I imagine to fruition!”

West, the USBC Proprietor of the Year, was the general manager of Fiesta Lanes until she retired in late 2019, though she continues to oversee the sales department at the center. The 36-lane center had 18 certified adult leagues with more than 1,000 adult members and two youth leagues with 200-plus bowlers, and West attended every league meeting in addition to actively recruiting new bowlers to join leagues.

She was selected as an Unsung Hero in her local community in 2012 for her work with Strike Force, a Special Olympics bowling team. In 2017, she was presented with the Chair of the Board - Youth Development Award by the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce. To date, her efforts have resulted in more than \$200,000 in scholarships awarded. In 2018, she was named the Texas State USBC Proprietor of the Year.

Fiesta Lanes was host of the doubles/singles portion of the 2016 Texas State USBC Ladies State Tournament and the team event in 2018. She worked with the chamber of commerce and local businesses to provide bowlers with gifts and information on local attractions and restaurants, and also volunteered her time to assist with the tournament.

An avid supporter of fundraising efforts, she organized a Friday night doubles tournament, named in honor of former Women’s International Bowling Congress (WIBC) President Sylvia Broyles, for state tournament bowlers with proceeds benefitting breast cancer awareness. She also sponsored several tournaments benefiting service men and women, including the Wounded Warrior Project and the local VFW.

“I am honored to be recognized as the USBC Proprietor of the Year,” West said. “I am grateful for the recognition I have received for my work in the industry, but I wouldn't be here without the help of my family and all the great employees at Fiesta Lanes.”

The National Recognition Awards will be presented during the 2020 USBC Convention and Annual Meeting, which will be held April 27-30 at The Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Visit [BOWL.com/ScholarshipsAwards](https://www.bowl.com/ScholarshipsAwards) for more information on the National Recognition Awards and to learn about past recipients. Visit [BOWL.com/Convention](https://www.bowl.com/Convention) for information on the 2020 USBC Convention.

## **CBS SPORTS NETWORK TO TELEVISION 17 BOWLING EVENTS, FEATURING PWBA, COLLEGIATE AND YOUTH, IN 2020**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Live coverage of a Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour event finals that will take place at the Hammer Junior Gold Championships is one of the many highlights of the 17 bowling shows CBS Sports Network will televise in 2020.

The live finals of the PWBA Las Vegas Open, scheduled as part of the Junior Gold Opening Ceremony at The Orleans Arena, is set for July 12 at 9 p.m. (Eastern). Located in The Orleans Hotel and Casino, the arena will seat approximately 9,000 spectators for the show. The 1995 U.S. Open set the attendance record for a bowling event at 7,212.

CBS Sports Network will have live coverage of seven PWBA stepladder finals in 2020, including all majors, plus four shows from the Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships, the finals of all four divisions of the Junior Gold Championships, and the two title matches at the USA Bowling National Championships.

Las Vegas also will host the stepladder finals of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Queens, on Tuesday, May 19 at 8 p.m. (Eastern) at the South Point Bowling Plaza. It is the first of the four PWBA majors that will be televised live. Dasha Kovalova of Ukraine won her first career PWBA Tour title and major championship at last year's event.

The U.S. Women's Open stepladder finals are June 30 (8 p.m. Eastern) at USA Bowl in Dallas, the PWBA Players Championship finals are Aug. 23 (5 p.m. Eastern) at Seminole Lanes in Seminole, Florida, while the PWBA Tour Championship will be announced at a later date.

The finals of college bowling's major events, the Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships that will be held at the Spectrum Entertainment Complex in Wyoming, Michigan, to kick off the action. The ISC women's finals will air Tuesday, April 21, at 8 p.m. (Eastern), and the ISC men's singles will be televised April 28 at 11 p.m. (Eastern).

The ITC women's title match will be televised May 5 at 8 p.m. (Eastern) and the men's final will air May 12 at 11 p.m. (Eastern).

Six TV shows will be taped for broadcast when the Junior Gold Championships and USA Bowling National Championships are held in Las Vegas in July.

The boys and girls finals in each of the four divisions of the Junior Gold Championships will air on four consecutive Tuesdays starting July 21 with the 12-and-under finals, followed by the U15 (July 28), U17 (Aug. 4) and U20 (Aug. 11) divisions. All finals will air at 8 p.m. (Eastern).

The U15 title match of the USA Bowling National Championships will air Aug. 18, and the U12 final will be on CBS Sports Network on Aug. 25, with both starting at 8 p.m. (Eastern).

The 2020 CBS Sports Network bowling schedule (all times Eastern):

- Tue., April 21, Intercollegiate Singles Championships (women), Wyoming, Mich., 8 p.m.
- Tue., April 28, Intercollegiate Singles Championships (men), Wyoming, Mich., 11 p.m.
- Tue., May 5, Intercollegiate Team Championships (women), Wyoming, Mich., 8 p.m.
- Tue., May 12, Intercollegiate Team Championships (men), Wyoming, Mich., 11 p.m.
- \*Tue., May 19, USBC Queens, Las Vegas, 8 p.m.
- \*Tue., June 30, U.S. Women's Open, Dallas, 8 p.m.
- \*Sun., July 12, PWBA Las Vegas Open, Las Vegas, 9 p.m.
- Tue., July 21, Junior Gold Championships (Under 12), Las Vegas, 8 p.m.
- Tue., July 28, Junior Gold Championships (Under 15), Las Vegas, 8 p.m.
- Tue., Aug. 4, Junior Gold Championships (Under 17), Las Vegas, 8 p.m.
- \*Sat., Aug. 8, PWBA Greater Columbus Open, Columbus, Ohio, 7:30 p.m.
- Tue., Aug. 11, Junior Gold Championships (Under 20), Las Vegas, 8 p.m.
- \*Sat., Aug. 15, PWBA Tennessee Open, Clarksville, Tenn., 5 p.m.
- Tue., Aug. 18, USA Bowling National Championships (Under 15), Las Vegas, 8 p.m.
- \*Sun., Aug. 23, PWBA Players Championship, Seminole, Fla., 5 p.m.
- Tue., Aug. 25, USA Bowling National Championships (Under 12), Las Vegas, 8 p.m.
- \*TBA, PWBA Tour Championship, TBA

\*televised live

CBS Sports Network will re-air many of the events, so check local listings. Visit [CBSSportsNetwork.com](https://www.cbssportsnetwork.com) for listings and channel information.

Visit [BOWL.com/Collegiate](https://www.bowl.com/collegiate) to learn more about the Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships.

For information on the Junior Gold Championships and USA Bowling National Championships, visit [BOWL.com/Youth](https://www.bowl.com/youth).

Go to [PWBA.com](https://www.pwba.com) for information on the PWBA Tour, including news, player bios, and more.

The PWBA Tour, Junior Gold Championships and USA Bowling National Championships are collaboratively funded by the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) and USBC.

## **KIM KEARNEY REJOINS TEAM USA COACHING STAFF**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Kim Kearney, the women's bowling coach at North Carolina A&T, once again will be part of the Team USA program as an assistant coach.

A United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Silver coach, she first joined the Team USA staff in 2004 as a Junior Team USA assistant coach under Rod Ross. She became a collegiate coach in 2007, though she remained on the Junior Team USA staff, and then joined Ross on the International Training and Research Center (ITRC) staff in 2009. She was named a Team USA assistant coach the following year.

In her latest role, her main focus will be to work with the adult team at training camps and during international competitions, as needed.

"Team USA has been a part of my life for 30 years," Kearney said. "I'm appreciative of the opportunity to work with the best coaches in the world and certainly the best athletes."

She's excited to join a coaching staff that added seven assistant coaches in 2017.

"I love the idea that we have expanded the coaching staff, getting more people involved," Kearney said. "There are so many great coaches in the country, and the chance to learn from different people, different styles, is best for all of us."

Kearney has been the head coach of the North Carolina A&T women's program since 2016. In 2018, the Aggies won the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference title for the first time in 14 years and earned a spot in the NCAA tournament.

Prior to joining the ITRC staff in 2009, Kearney was the head coach of the Delaware State women's bowling team, where she was named the 2009 National Tenpin Coaches Association (NTCA) Coach of the Year. She led the Hornets to their first NCAA tournament appearance in 2009.

Kearney is a USBC Hall of Fame member who won 10 professional titles in her career, including three majors. She was a two-time All-American at San Jose State and joined

the Professional Women's Bowling Association Tour in 1989, where she earned PWBA Rookie of the Year honors.

As a three-time Team USA member, she won gold medals in the 2009 Pan American Bowling Confederation (PABCON) Championships Masters and team events, and a silver medal in the 2009 World Bowling Women's Championships team event.

As with all Team USA assistant coaches, Kearney will be an independent contractor and not an employee of USBC.

Visit [BOWL.com/TeamUSA](http://BOWL.com/TeamUSA) to learn more about the Team USA program and the coaching staff.

## **REPORT SHOWS USBC IS FULLY COMPLIANT WITH USOPC REQUIREMENTS**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) published an audit report showing the United States Bowling Congress is fully compliant with the USOPC's 2019 Compliance Checklist.

The USOPC 2019 Compliance Checklist reported USBC policies were compliant in the areas of governance/managerial, financial capability, due process and athlete representation, and anti-doping. The audit, which had 27 questions related to the four areas, was conducted by the USOPC Audit and Organizational Advancement Team.

USOPC stated, "There were no deficiencies found and USBC is fully compliant with the USOPC's 2019 Compliance Checklist."

Pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, member National Governing Bodies (NGBs) have agreed to comply with all conditions of membership as set forth by the USOPC's bylaws and policies. To ensure these policies are met, the USOPC conducts reviews and produces compliance checklist reports for all NGBs on an annual basis.

The USOPC 2019 Compliance Checklist report will be presented to the USOPC Athlete and NGB Engagement Committee.

To view the complete report, click [here](#).

## **LAVOIE SET TO DEFEND TITLE AT UPCOMING 2020 U.S. OPEN**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** - Every time Francois Lavoie returns home from an event on the Professional Bowlers Association Tour, regardless of how he fared on the lanes that week, he'll be reminded about the fact that he's living his dream.

The 26-year-old right-hander recently purchased a home in Wichita, Kansas, offering him a tangible representation of his success as a professional bowler, in a community he describes as rejuvenating and refreshing.

Though Lavoie hails from Canada and proudly represents his home country in international competition, Wichita has provided him with important skills he's used in both winning prize money and spending it wisely, along with confidence in the path he has chosen.

When his journey takes him to Sun Valley Lanes in Lincoln, Nebraska, as the defending champion for the upcoming U.S. Open, no one would blame him if all of those things were on his mind, potentially adding pressure.

However, as a fifth-year veteran of the PBA Tour, Lavoie is confident the things he has experienced and learned since his rookie campaign in 2016 will help him stay focused against the rest of the talented 108-player field.

The event will kick off Sunday with a pre-tournament qualifier to fill any remaining spots in the field, and official qualifying will start Tuesday at 9 a.m. Eastern.

"I was pretty unsatisfied with my 2019 season as a whole, so to be able to finish the way I did by winning the U.S. Open in October, made it so special and such a turnaround," said Lavoie, a four-time PBA Tour champion. "Early in the year, I was trying to change my game too much and mimic everyone else, rather than matching my own game to what I was seeing on the lanes. At the U.S. Open, I focused more on my own strengths, and that made all the difference."

Each player at the 2020 U.S. Open will bowl 24 games over three days (eight games each day) on three different oil patterns, with the top 36 performers bowling eight more games on a fourth lane condition, to determine the 24 bowlers for round-robin match play.

All rounds of qualifying and match play will be broadcast live at [BowITV.com](http://BowITV.com), and the event will conclude with a five-player stepladder, live on FOX on Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. Eastern.

As one of 12 bowlers in history to win the U.S. Open on multiple occasions - he also won in 2016 on the way to being named PBA Rookie of the Year - Lavoie knows what it's like to put the prestigious title on the line, but this year will be a little different.

Last time, Lavoie had almost a year to let the accomplishment sink in, and he had just as much time to practice for the event, which is known for featuring some of the toughest lane conditions. Schedule-wise, the 2017 U.S. Open essentially was a standalone piece of the PBA Tour schedule.

Preparing for the U.S. Open meant bowling on flatter oil patterns and practicing special skills, such as speed control and different hand positions or ball rolls.

The tournament's move to February in 2020 means Lavoie only had a few months to prepare, and because it comes during a very busy time on the PBA Tour schedule, his preparation has been more generalized.

The 2020 PBA Tour season began in mid-January, and the U.S. Open will be the sixth event. February alone includes three of the season's five majors.

"Because we're in the middle of the season this time, my practice has been more about being sharp in general, rather than focusing on the traditional challenges of the U.S. Open," Lavoie said. "I like to make sure I bowl often, but not too much. There has to be a balance between practice and rest because it's a long season. The amount of time I spend practicing also depends on how each week goes, since we have official practice, qualifying and, hopefully, match play."

Through four events in 2020, Lavoie has a best finish of 20th, which came at the PBA Oklahoma Open, and while he's still searching for a breakout performance, he's also very focused on being patient and looking at the season as a whole.

These are viewpoints that have come with experience and maturity.

"Patience is a big thing this year that will keep me more level-headed and so I'm not living and dying with every event," Lavoie said. "I'm gaining more and more experience and getting more comfortable each time I find myself in different situations. I'm not as focused on the final results as I am with the steps and the process. Doing those things is the best way to get the results I'm hoping for."

Lavoie's recent decision to establish roots in Wichita only formalized a relationship that has been an integral part of his development as a competitor.

His time as a student-athlete in Wichita not only ended with a pair of collegiate national championships and a business degree, it also allowed him to build countless friendships in a centrally located city known for its bowling prowess.

Going home to a warm and familiar place allows him to recharge after an event, while the friends, coaches and other bowling resources help him stay motivated and sharp. That includes the opportunity to practice at the eight-lane Rhatigan Student Center under the watchful and talented eyes of the Wichita State coaching staff.

"Wichita is such a good place for bowling, it's where I went to school and it's where I learned a lot about the sport," said Lavoie, who was a champion at the Intercollegiate Singles Championships in 2014 and Intercollegiate Team Championships in 2015. "I have a really strong circle there, and it's an incredible environment to be in because you're constantly surrounded by people who know so much about bowling. Remaining in that environment has been incredibly helpful."

As Lavoie continues to live his dream of being a professional bowler, he can look back and appreciate each success. As a two-time U.S. Open winner, each victory resonates differently.

His win in Las Vegas in 2016 was the first of his four PBA Tour titles. He entered the five-player championship stepladder as the second seed and advanced to the title match by becoming the first bowler in history to roll a perfect game on a U.S. Open television show.

He again earned the No. 2 spot for the TV finals in 2019, and the win was an unforgettable redemption for a season filled with struggles.

The march to the trophy included a masterful navigation of four oil patterns ranging from 37 to 45 feet, and the \$30,000 top prize accounted for the majority of the \$42,300 he earned in 19 national events. He defeated top seed Sean Rash in the final, 221-172.

Heading into the 2020 event, Lavoie is looking to become the fifth bowler to win the U.S. Open three or more times. Only hall of famers Pete Weber (5), Dick Weber (4), Don Carter (4) and Dave Husted (3) have done so.

Only four bowlers - Andy Varipapa, Carter, Dick Weber and Husted have successfully defended their U.S. Open titles. Husted was the last to accomplish the feat, doing so in 1996.

For more information on the U.S. Open, visit [BOWL.com/USOpen](http://BOWL.com/USOpen).

## **2020 USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN RENO EXTENDED BY A WEEK**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** - As the United States Bowling Congress Open Championships prepares for its return to Reno, Nevada, in 2020, competitors have shown their passion for The Biggest Little City in the World by filling nearly 92 percent of the originally scheduled competition days.

More than 9,400 teams already have registered for the event, and with nearly all squads sold out from May through the end of the tournament, USBC has added another week of squads in July.

The 2020 USBC Open Championships has been extended to July 12 (last team date July 11), making room for teams still interested in competing and seeing what the newly renovated National Bowling Stadium has to offer.

The event is returning to Reno for the first time since 2016 and was scheduled to run for 108 consecutive days from March 21 until July 6. The extra week will allow an additional 600 teams to experience the world's largest participatory sporting event and iconic 78-lane NBS.

The entry deadline for the event has been extended until May 15 to allow bowlers and captains to form teams and take advantage of added inventory. Captains can enter and pay online at [BOWL.com/OpenChamp](http://BOWL.com/OpenChamp), or call the tournament office at 888-910-2695.

For more information on the USBC Open Championships, visit [BOWL.com/OpenChamp](http://BOWL.com/OpenChamp).

## **FOUR HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING PROGRAMS RECEIVE GRANTS THROUGH THE YES FUND**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – High schools in Kentucky, Louisiana and Minnesota have been selected to receive a \$2,500 grant for their bowling programs through the Youth Education Services (YES) Fund.

Administered by International Bowling Campus (IBC) Youth Development, the High School Grant Program annually provides up to four grants to high schools to start a new bowling program or to assist existing programs in need of financial assistance because of budget cutbacks or other changes.

The schools selected to receive grants are:

- Paducah Tilghman High School, Paducah, Kentucky
- Warren East High School, Bowling Green, Kentucky
- St. Augustine High School, New Orleans
- Sibley East High School, Arlington, Minnesota

Paducah Tilghman High School's bowling program is in its inaugural year of being a school-sponsored sport, after a year as a club sport. In 2018, Kristi Miller, the team's coach, was asked to develop the bowling club after a Title IX survey showed a valid

interest. She was told, “if the club grew large enough, that we would eventually look at developing a competitive team.”

The club team drew 16 students, leading to the school approving a competitive team. The program now has 24 players, and receives some school funding. The grant will pay for additional equipment, tournament fees and travel expenses.

Warren East High School, which has a boys’ and girls’ team, has existed for many years. The school pays a coaching stipend but does not fund the program itself, so fundraising efforts cover additional costs.

“These kids are very dedicated,” coach Patrick White said in the application. “They go in their off time and spend their own money (to practice). They also use their own equipment to practice and play with, as well.”

Michael Templin not only is the coach for Sibley East bowling team, but bowled for the school. In 2012, his senior year, he worked to relocate the team to a new center, when its previous center closed, and he returned to coach the team in 2018. Players must pay a yearly fee to be on the team, which covers center costs and league fees.

The school has been self-sufficient and was thankful for donations from the Gaylord Fire Department Relief Fund and the Gaylord Protective League. It plans to use the funds to get new jerseys and bowling supplies.

St. Augustine High School competes in a high school warm-up league in the winter and varsity competition in the spring. The 10-week fall league pulls upwards of 55 schools from the New Orleans area in preparation of the varsity season.

Each bowler pays for winter season, their bowling jersey, and provides their own equipment. They will use the High School Grant to ease the costs of the fees for the varsity season, travel expenses, and additional equipment.

The High School Grant Program is a product of the YES Fund, a joint initiative of the Bowling Proprietors’ Association of America and United States Bowling Congress. The YES Fund is supported by the top bowling brands in the industry, including Bowling.com, Brunswick, Columbia 300, Ebonite, Hammer, QubicaAMF, Roto Grip, Storm and Track.

Visit [BOWL.com/HighSchool](https://www.bowl.com/HighSchool) to learn more about programs and initiatives to support high school programs.

## **SECTIONAL ASSIGNMENTS DETERMINED FOR 2020 INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The sectional assignments for the 2020 Intercollegiate Team Championships were announced Wednesday.

The sectional qualifiers will take place March 14-15 at four locations – 30 Strikes in Stratford, New Jersey; Smyrna Bowling Center in Smyrna, Tennessee; Stardust Bowl in Addison, Illinois; and USA Bowl in Dallas.

The top four men's and top four women's teams from each sectional will advance to the ITC, which will be held April 15-18 at Spectrum Lanes in Wyoming, Michigan.

The Wichita State men and women each finished the 2019-2020 United States Bowling Congress Collegiate season as the top-ranked teams in their respective divisions and will be headed to USA Bowl in Dallas in search of adding another Helmer Cup to the school's storied history.

Each program claimed first-place ranking points at two Tier I events during the regular season, and the Shockers' men's team also won the bracket at the Glenn Carlson Las Vegas Invitational.

Webber International, the defending men's ITC champion, will be heading to Stratford. Robert Morris-Illinois, the 2019 women's ITC champion, will begin their title defense in Smyrna.

The complete men's and women's Intercollegiate Team Championships Sectional Qualifier field (teams listed in alphabetical order):

### **MEN**

#### **Stratford Sectional**

Emmanuel, Erie CC, Georgian, Hudson Valley CC, Indiana Tech, Lourdes, Muskingum, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Notre Dame-Ohio, Ohio State, Penn State-Berks, Pikeville, Robert Morris-Pennsylvania, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John's, Stevens Institute of Technology, Stony Brook, Urbana, Webber International, William Paterson

#### **Smyrna Sectional**

Adrian, Aquinas, Bethel-Tennessee, Bowling Green State, Calumet, Campbellsville, Cumberlandds, Florida State, Kentucky Wesleyan, Lawrence Tech, Marian-Indianapolis, Northern Kentucky, Olivet, Robert Morris-Illinois, Saint Xavier, Savannah College of Art and Design-Savannah, St. Ambrose, Tennessee Wesleyan, Vincennes

#### **Addison Sectional**

Clarke, Concordia, Davenport, Grand View, Highland CC, Judson, Madonna, McKendree, Morningside, Mount Mercy, Northwestern Ohio, Rio Grande, Rochester, Rock Valley, St. Francis-Illinois, Trine, Waldorf, William Penn, Wisconsin-La Crosse, Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Wisconsin-Whitewater, Wright State

#### **Dallas Sectional**

Arizona State, Baker, Fresno State, Grand Canyon, Iowa Central CC, Kansas Wesleyan, Lincoln Memorial, Lindenwood, LSU, Martin Methodist, Midland, Nebraska, Nevada-Las Vegas, Newman, Oklahoma Christian, Ottawa, San Jose State, West Texas A&M, Wichita State

### **WOMEN**

#### **Stratford Sectional**

Emmanuel, Indiana Tech, Lourdes, Maryland Eastern Shore, Molloy, Mount St. Mary's, Muskingum, Notre Dame-Ohio, Pikeville, Roberts Wesleyan, St. Vincent, Urbana, Walsh, Webber International

### **Smyrna Sectional**

Adrian, Alabama-Birmingham, Alma, Calumet, Campbellsville, Cumberlands, Duquesne, Lawrence Tech, Morehead State, North Carolina A&T, Northern Kentucky, Robert Morris-Illinois, Sacred Heart, Saint Xavier, Savannah College of Art and Design-Savannah, St. Ambrose, Union

### **Addison Sectional**

Concordia, Grand View, Huntington, Judson, Lewis, Madonna, Maryville, McKendree, Morningside, Mount Mercy, Rock Valley, St. Francis-Illinois, Viterbo, William Penn, Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Wisconsin-Whitewater, Wright State

### **Dallas Sectional**

Baker, Columbia College, Drury, Iowa Central CC, Kansas Wesleyan, Lincoln Memorial, Lindenwood, Louisiana Tech, Martin Methodist, Midland, Newman, Oklahoma Christian, Ottawa, Stephen F. Austin, West Texas A&M, Wichita State

Sectional assignments are based on Team Ranking System (TRS) points earned throughout the season. USBC Collegiate attempts to place no more than two of the top eight schools and no more than four of the top 16 schools in a sectional based on the final TRS totals. Sectional qualifier fields take geographic distance, economics and field size into consideration.

The sectional format consists of 32 Baker games each day for a total of 64 Baker games. Total pinfall for the 64 games will determine which teams advance to the ITC.

The four hosting centers also will conduct qualifying sessions for the Intercollegiate Singles Championships on March 13. Student-athletes at each of the four sectional events will bowl six games with 24 men and 24 women – the top four men and top four women at each sectional plus eight additional individuals based on field size – advancing to the national singles tournament on April 14-15 (qualifying and match play) and April 18 (semifinals and finals) at Spectrum Lanes.

Registration for the ISC will open Friday, Feb. 21 at 11 a.m. Eastern and close March 6 at 6 p.m. Eastern. Student-athletes can register at [BOWL.com/ISC](http://BOWL.com/ISC).

Each sectional will be broadcast live at BowlTV.com.

The finals for both the ITC and ISC will be televised on CBS Sports Network, starting Tuesday, April 21 with the women's ISC final at 8 p.m. Eastern.

For more information on the Intercollegiate Team Championships, visit [BOWL.com/ITC](http://BOWL.com/ITC).

## **IBC YOUTH PROVIDES 16 SCHOOLS, ORGANIZATIONS WITH BOWLER'S ED KITS**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – A school district in Illinois, a United States Bowling Congress association in Nebraska, and 14 schools were selected by International Bowling Campus Youth Development to receive Bowler's Ed kits.

Each of the recipients were selected based on submitted applications. The Bowler's Ed kits provide teachers, and those who organize youth activities, the tools needed to engage children in a true bowling experience.

With the easy-to-use bowling equipment, along with a curriculum designed to introduce students to the lifetime sport of bowling, teachers are able to bring the experience of a bowling center to their classroom or gymnasium.

For teachers, the program conforms with all five National Association of Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) standards for physical education. For the students, the kits provide activities to enhance cardiovascular health, coordination and endurance while learning about the sport.

“With the Bowler’s Ed kits, we are able to introduce so many children to bowling, and show them how much fun they can have by knocking down pins,” IBC Youth Committee chair Melissa McDaniel said. “It’s great to see these schools and organizations understand the value of these kits, and took the initiative to apply for the grants. We know the teachers will enjoy the program as much as the students.”

The schools and organizations receiving grants are:

- Ave Maria Catholic School, Parker, Colo.
- Blackhawk Christian School, Fort Wayne, Ind.
- Bowen High School, Chicago
- Frank J. Dugan Elementary, Marlboro, N.J.
- Grand Island Cairo Area USBC, Grand Island, Neb.
- Grove Elementary, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.
- Hancock College Prep, Chicago
- Harwood Career Preparatory High School, Evansville, Ind.
- James Stephens Montessori, Ville Platte, La.
- Jefferson Elementary School, Stevens Point, Wis.
- Lincoln Elementary, Franklin, Ky.
- Magnolia West High School, Magnolia, Texas
- Scott City Middle School, Scott City, Kan.
- Shiloh Community Unit School District 1, Hume, Ill.
- Summit Academy North High School, Romulus, Mich.
- Vail Pittman Elementary, Las Vegas

Since 2016, IBC Youth Development has awarded 214 Bowler’s Ed kits to schools and organizations across the country. The Bowler’s Ed program, supported by the bowling industry, provides children the opportunity to acquire skills toward the lifelong sport of bowling that builds strong bones, burns calories, promotes balance and coordination and develops sportsmanship.

IBC Youth Development is supported by the Bowling Proprietors’ Association of America and the United States Bowling Congress.

Visit [BOWL.com/BowlersEd](http://BOWL.com/BowlersEd) to learn more about the great benefits of the program.

## **ST. LOUIS TEAM SETS FIVE-PLAYER SINGLE-GAME RECORD**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** - With 2020 being a leap year, five bowlers from the St. Louis area now will have an extra day to celebrate the five-player single-game record they set Friday night in the Tri-Challenge league at The Gateway City's Concord Bowl.

The 1,457 performance from the Shelter Insurance teammates came in the opening game of their three-game league and featured 55 strikes in 58 opportunities, including a string of 27 strikes to start the night. The run ended when Tom Grimm, third in the lineup, left a 10 pin in the sixth frame.

Grimm struck out to finish the game with 279, while the rest of the teammates all entered the final frame with a shot at perfection.

Gregg Getzlow tossed a 10th strike before a 9 pin ended his bid for 300. He finished with 289. Ron Testa then notched the team's first 300, and Grimm threw his final three strikes.

Tom Shucart's perfect game then left anchor Mark Hood needing to knock down eight or more pins on his first shot, and deliver a mark, for a chance at the record. Hood, the lone left-hander of the group, struck on his first offering and left a 6 pin on his second shot. He made the spare for a 289 game.

"The more we've had a chance to bowl together since I put this team together a few years ago, the better the chemistry has become, and it helps that everyone is really positive, too," said Testa, the team's captain. "Things have been coming together for us over the last few weeks, and it has been a lot of fun for us lately. There have been nights where we bowled this well but didn't score as well, but that's our sport. We got the carry and some breaks last night, and it all fell into place."

The record is unofficial until the required paperwork has been filed and verified by USBC. The previous mark of 1,434, also rolled in the St. Louis area, was posted by Buckets on Deck in November 2011.

This year marks Shelter Insurance's third season together in the top-tier 18-team league, though they have been bowling with and against each other locally for decades. They also spent some time testing their skills in Professional Bowlers Association competition over the years.

At 53, Grimm is the youngest member of the team, Hood is 58, Testa is 60, Shucart is 61 and Getzlow will turn 62 on Sunday.

There were some aches and pains and learning curves for the team in getting comfortable at the 32-lane center and getting in rhythm, but it's something they planned for with a roster that has included as many as 10 players.

Now, they're all healthy and sharp, and the consistent lineup and bowling order have allowed their strengths and personalities to shine.

"This is a big-time money league, and we knew going in it was going to be pretty competitive," Testa said. "But, there's no defense in this sport. No matter how old you are, the goal simply is to out-strike the other guy. We may be older, but we still love it and still have a lot to prove."

Even though Grimm had the lowest game in the monumental performance Friday and lost his point to opponent Bryan Jones, who shot 300, the effort did earn Grimm a second spot in the USBC record book for the highest "low game" in a five-player game.

Four players, all from the same area, previously shared the record with 278.

The list includes Connor Druhm of St. Peters, Missouri, who was a member of Buckets on Deck, and Jim Hankemeyer, LeRoy Bornhop and Randy Lightfoot of St. Charles, Missouri, who were O.T. Hill's team that shot 1,413 in St. Charles in February 2001.

"It's great to have our names associated with those guys, and it just goes to show you what a great bowling tradition there is in this area," Testa said. "That says the players that came before us paved the way and bred the players here today. They taught us how to play and act. They helped create a really competitive environment, and what we have today is a direct result of their success, going back many, many years."

The momentum of the record start carried into Shelter Insurance's second game Friday night, but the team did not end up making a run at the highest five-player team series in USBC history, a 3,986 mark owned by The Bj's, also from St. Louis, on March 10, 2016.

Shelter Insurance added games of 1,233 and 1,099 for a 3,789 total.

Testa led the effort with a 791 series and was followed by Hood (769), Getzlow (754), Grimm (743) and Shucart (732).

Regardless of the way the night ended, the Shelter Insurance crew had the attention of everyone at Concord Bowl and delivered in the spotlight to share a life-changing moment.

"When something like this happens, you're so emotionally tied to it and incredibly proud," Testa said. "Even better, it's a team thing. You hold each other up, catch a few breaks to get there and now we're national record holders. It's amazing. And, the fact that we were three hits short of 1,500 is what I still can't wrap my head around."

### **Top team records:**

#### **Open, five player game**

\*1,457 Shelter Insurance, St. Louis, Feb. 28, 2020

1,434 Buckets on Deck, St. Charles, Mo., Nov. 30, 2011  
1,422 Concord Electric, New Bedford, Mass., Jan. 18, 2019  
1,413 O.T. Hill's, St. Charles, Mo., Feb. 15, 2001  
1,411 E.C.N., Wichita, Kan., March 3, 2010

**Open, five player series**

3,986 The Bj's, St. Louis, March 10, 2016  
3,937 Pro Bowl West, Chattanooga, Tenn., March 30, 2009  
3,934 Limo Exchange, New Castle, Del., April 1, 2004  
3,919 Hammer/The American Bowler, Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 9, 2010  
3,905 Print Mark Industries, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Feb. 10, 2001

For more information on USBC records, visit [BOWL.com/Records](http://BOWL.com/Records).

**NEW YORK YOUTH DIRECTOR SELECTED TO RECEIVE USBC YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Thomas Solimine Sr., who has coordinated tournaments for youth bowlers throughout New York and runs youth leagues at the local level, has been selected as the United States Bowling Congress Youth Volunteer of the Year by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee.

The award recognizes an adult volunteer who has displayed outstanding efforts to foster, organize and promote certified youth bowling programs at the local, state and/or national level. The IBC Youth Committee selects the national award winner from submitted applications.

“It is a great honor to receive this award by USBC,” Solimine said. “It is a recognition of many years of work, but as you know, you never do it alone. I have worked with many great volunteers over the years and they deserve some of the credit also.”

Solimine, who lives in White Plains, New York, has been involved in youth bowling for more than 30 years. He currently chairs the New York State USBC Youth Committee and serves as the youth representative on the Westchester County USBC. He has served in many roles at the local and state level, including president of his local association and of the NYS USBC Youth association.

While he has directed many tournaments, the NYS USBC Adult/Junior event might be at the top of the list. Started in 1999, as part of the NYS USBC Youth Championships, the first event had 50 teams, and now draws bowlers from throughout the state.

“Something that started out as a fun event in 1999 has turned into a very special tournament,” Solimine said. “Our State Adult/Junior Championship tournament has

been a great success. We have averaged over 300 doubles teams each year and have awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships to our champions.'

Solimine also has served on the Young American Bowling Alliance Coca-Cola National Committee, is a former president of the New York State Bowling Council, served as a volunteer with Special Olympics and was an Empire State Games Tournament Director.

He runs the Saturday Morning Youth Bowling Program at Bowlmor White Plains, which he has overseen for more than 20 years, and serves as a volunteer with a local football league, helping coordinate referees.

He was inducted into the Westchester County USBC Hall of Fame in 2000 and the New York State USBC Hall of Fame in 2012 for his work with youth bowlers.

Solimine will be presented with USBC Youth Volunteer of the Year at the 2020 USBC Convention and Annual Meeting, set for April 27-30 at The Orleans in Las Vegas. BowlTV.com will have live coverage of the awards presentations.

Visit [BOWL.com/ScholarshipsAwards](https://www.bowl.com/scholarshipsawards) to learn more about awards for adult youth leaders and scholarship opportunities for youth bowlers.

## **USBC POSTPONES OR SUSPENDS NATIONAL EVENTS UNTIL MAY 1**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) is postponing or suspending nationally conducted USBC events until May 1, 2020, due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

This includes the USBC Open Championships, USBC Women's Championships, USBC Convention, USBC Masters and USBC Senior Queens. USBC made this difficult decision out of concern for the health and safety of our members, their families and local communities.

- The 2020 USBC Open Championships and 2020 USBC Women's Championships are suspended until May 1, 2020. All teams registered from March 21 through April 30 will have the option to reschedule for new added dates in the summer. USBC customer service will contact team captains directly with more details.
- The USBC Masters, USBC Senior Queens and USBC Convention are postponed indefinitely. USBC intends to reschedule these events later in 2020, as public health conditions allow.

USBC will announce any changes to the Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour schedule no later than April 2, 2020.

We realize our stakeholders will have many questions related the changes. USBC staff is working on additional communications and guidance for our bowlers and association leaders. We appreciate everyone's patience as our staff works to provide more information as soon as possible.

Please read the Frequently Asked Questions located [here](#) for more information.

## **USBC ANNOUNCES INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM AND SINGLES BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) is postponing the Intercollegiate Singles and Team Sectionals scheduled for March 13-15. Competition at all locations is postponed indefinitely.

USBC made this decision after reviewing the actions of universities and national governing bodies to postpone or cancel collegiate events due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

USBC will continue to monitor conditions in the coming weeks and consider options for rescheduling the intercollegiate events. USBC will continue the previously announced policy to refund entry fees for any school or athlete who chooses to withdraw from these events.

## **USBC COVID-19 UPDATE**

The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) has postponed or suspended scheduled national events through the end of April due to concerns about COVID-19. Additionally, until further notice, USBC is suspending staff travel unless travel is deemed mission critical to the organization.

USBC recommends USBC state and local associations also postpone or suspend mass gathering events, meetings and travel in the best interest of public health. While individual state and local requirements related to mass gatherings are evolving, USBC recommends associations be proactive in considering the wellbeing of their members.

USBC has developed a Frequently Asked Questions guide to assist our associations, leagues and tournaments with rules and procedures related to postponing or canceling events.

USBC staff is available to answer any specific questions or concerns.

## **USBC ADJUSTS TENTATIVE START DATE, EXTENDS RESERVATION DATES FOR 2020 OPEN AND WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) has moved the tentative start date for the 2020 USBC Open and Women's Championships to May 23, 2020, and will extend the tournaments several more weeks to allow teams rescheduling flexibility.

"USBC's intention is to conduct the Open and Women's Championships in 2020 and crown champions in these signature events," USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said. "Moving forward, USBC will update the tentative start date based on current conditions and shift that start date back in the calendar as needed."

USBC will announce an update with any adjustments to the tentative start date of the USBC Open and Women's Championships weekly.

An updated reservation calendar will be available by March 19, 2020, which includes expanded team dates for the Open Championships through Aug. 29, 2020. The Women's Championships will be expanded through July 31, 2020. The goal is to provide teams maximum flexibility to shift their dates to later in the year, keep their current reservation, or move to earlier dates, as circumstances change.

All teams have the option to move their dates in the calendar at any time, using the online registration system or by contacting USBC customer service. Teams may shift dates as many times as they want. USBC also will allow teams who prefer to withdraw a full refund of their entries or have their full entry fee applied to the 2021 tournament without penalty.

"We realize in this challenging time, everyone's situation will be different," Murphy said. "Our message is that we plan to conduct these events when it is safe to do so and give our bowlers the opportunity to compete, even if that means running the events late in the year.

"We will continue to look at opening more dates on the backend, as needed, to give teams flexibility to move. We are ready to open dates in September and October for the Open Championships in 2020, if circumstances lead to that."

Registration for next year's event, the 2021 USBC Open Championships in Las Vegas, will open on schedule, starting Monday, March 23, at 11 a.m. (Eastern).

## **USBC POSTPONES 2020 SENIOR MASTERS, SUPER SENIOR CLASSIC AND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) has postponed the 2020 USBC Senior Masters and 2020 Super Senior Classic until later this year, and postponed the 2020 Senior Championships to 2021 due to COVID-19 public health concerns.

While the 2020 Senior Championships will not be conducted this year, those already qualified will be invited to compete concurrently at the 2021 tournament. Details on the 2021 event will be announced later.

The Super Senior Classic and Senior Masters originally were scheduled to take place back to back, starting May 27 with the Super Senior Classic, at Sam's Town Bowling Center in Las Vegas.

USBC will work with the Professional Bowlers Association on rescheduling the Senior Masters, a major event that is part of the PBA50 Tour schedule. The PBA announced March 17 it had placed all tournaments at all levels on hiatus indefinitely.

## **NEW YORK, COLORADO BOWLERS SELECTED AS YOUTH AMBASSADORS OF THE YEAR**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Courtney Morelli of Selden, New York, and Tanner Ausec of Colorado Springs, Colorado, have been selected as the United States Bowling Congress Youth Ambassadors of the Year.

The annual award recognizes a male and a female USBC Youth bowler for exemplary contributions in the sport outside of league or tournament play, academic accomplishments, and community involvement.

Selected by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee, based on submitted applications, Morelli and Ausec each will receive a \$1,500 scholarship.

Morelli has been a member of the Long Island USBC Youth Leaders program since 2013, and currently serves as treasurer. She chairs the Fundraising and Recruitment committees, and mentors new members.

She also is the vice president of the New York State Youth Leaders board, which she has served on for the last two years.

“Receiving this award is an incredible honor,” Morelli said. “I absolutely love participating in Youth Leaders events and helping out in any way possible. This is such a validation to all the years I’ve spent participating as a Youth Leader and furthering the bowling program.”

While her work with the Youth Leaders program has helped the local and state association, it also has taught Morelli valuable skills.

“I have always been a shy kid, and joining this program has really built up my confidence,” Morelli said. “I have developed my social skills and how to interact with adults. My organization and planning skills have really improved, as well as my problem-solving skills.”

A senior at Newfield High School, she has been a member of the school’s bowling team since the seventh grade. She also competes in a travel league.

She plans to study business administration in the fall.

Ausec currently is serving his third one-year term as a youth director on the Pikes Peak USBC board, ensuring local youth are represented and served through tournaments and awards programs.

“I have been fortunate to receive so much from the local bowling community,” Ausec said. “Whether through coaching, equipment, or knowledge, there have always been people to support me. As I grew up, I learned to understand the importance of giving back wherever possible, which is why I began coaching. This award is an acknowledgment of not only my efforts to give back to the game, but recognition of all that I have received from my local bowling community, as well.”

A senior at Rampart High School, Ausec has a 4.19 grade-point average and ranks sixth in his class. On the lanes, he helped Rampart win back-to-back state team titles the past two seasons.

He started coaching youth bowlers at King Pin Lanes in Colorado Springs four years ago, as part of a National Junior Honor Society community service requirement. He said he quickly realized how much he enjoyed teaching the basic skills of the sport, and it gave him a greater appreciation of those who coached him.

“Coaching has taught me a number of things, but first and foremost it is a constant reminder that bowling should always be fun,” Ausec said. “It has also taught me to be a better student of the game, and my skill level has benefited because of it.”

Ausec will attend the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in the fall and plans to bowl for the Warhawks.

Morelli and Ausec also may have the opportunity to serve on the IBC Youth Committee and be eligible for additional scholarship funds. Youth Ambassadors selected to serve on the IBC Youth Committee must be at least 18 years old as of Aug. 1 in year of selection.

Visit [BOWL.com/ScholarshipsAwards](https://www.bowl.com/scholarshipsawards) to learn more about scholarship opportunities for youth bowlers.

## **OHIO HIGH SCHOOL BOWLER SELECTED FOR ANNUAL ZEB SCHOLARSHIP**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Hannah Vaughn of Fredericktown, Ohio, who started bowling competitively after joining her high school team as a freshman, has been selected as the Annual Zeb Scholarship recipient by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee.

The Annual Zeb Scholarship recognizes a United States Bowling Congress Youth member who has achieved academic success and gives back to their community through service. The recipient, who must be in their junior or senior year of high school, receives a \$2,500 scholarship.

Vaughn, a Fredericktown High School senior, admits she was not very good when she joined the bowling team her freshman year – “I averaged around 90 and was very excited if I ever broke 100” – but as an athlete who had competed in basketball, volleyball and track, she proved to be a quick student of the game.

In the past two seasons, she was named Most Valuable Player on her bowling team, and she finished second at the 2020 Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Girls Division II State Bowling Championships.

She has been actively involved with 4-H since 2005, serving as a 4-H Camp Counselor for three years, and the National FFA Organization. She has served as a member of the Knox County Equine Advisory Committee and Knox County Canine Council since 2011.

“This scholarship means so much to me,” Vaughn said. “I appreciate being recognized for my community service and academics so much. In 4-H, FFA, and school, I have been able to give back to my community by volunteering. In the classroom, I have worked very hard to get good grades and take college classes. This scholarship will help me to continue my education without having as much stress about debt.”

She has a 4.0 grade-point average, is a member of the National Technical Honor Society, was named to the Academic All-Ohio team and has taken honors courses in

math, biology and business. She is taking college courses at Central Ohio Technical College, where she made the President's Honors List.

In addition to her work through 4-H and FFA, she has volunteered with the Salvation Army, Hot Meals of Fredericktown, made blankets for the Children's Hospital, and hosted petting zoos for the Eastern Star Nursing Home.

She plans to attend Mount Vernon Nazarene University in the fall, where she will study sports management and finance, and bowl for the Cougars.

The scholarship is named for Jim Zebehazy, who served as executive director of the Young American Bowling Alliance (YABA) from 1996-2004 and later as a regional manager for USBC. Zebehazy is a member of the 2020 USBC Hall of Fame class.

Visit [BOWL.com/ScholarshipsAwards](https://www.bowl.com/scholarshipsawards) to learn more about scholarship opportunities for youth bowlers.

## **USBC HALL OF FAMER BOB HANSON DIES AT AGE 93**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** - United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Bob Hanson died Tuesday morning at a hospital in West Palm Beach, Florida, following a short illness. He was 93.

Hanson, selected to the USBC Hall of Fame in 2004 in the Veterans category, was born Feb. 2, 1927, and didn't start bowling until he was in his 20s. Despite the late start, he quickly became one of the most prolific performers in the Minneapolis area.

He found the national spotlight as part of the famed Hamm's Beer team, collecting three titles at the USBC Open Championships - Team All-Events in 1965 and Regular Team in 1970 and 1972. He participated in the tournament 45 times from 1962 to 2008.

Hanson's momentum brought him international accolades, as well.

In 1971, he represented the United States at the World Bowling World Championships in Milwaukee, where he earned gold medals in the five-player and eight-player team events.

Hanson again donned the red, white and blue at the 1974 Pan Am Bowling Adult Championships in Venezuela, winning a silver medal in the eight-player team event and a bronze medal in doubles.

He was inducted into the Minneapolis USBC Hall of Fame in 1975.

Funeral services will be held later this year at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis. Additional information will be forthcoming.

For more information on the USBC Hall of Fame, visit [BOWL.com/HallofFame](http://BOWL.com/HallofFame).

## **EARL ANTHONY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO FIVE USBC YOUTH BOWLERS**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Five United States Bowling Congress Youth members were selected to receive an Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship in recognition of their academic achievements and contributions to their communities.

Recipients were selected by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee from submitted applications and each receives a \$5,000 scholarship. The scholarship is named in honor of the legendary hall of famer who was dedicated to helping youth bowlers.

The five recipients of an Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship are:

- Bridget Bazile, Tigerton, Wisconsin
- Bailey Knierim, San Antonio
- Alexander Kobus, Crown Point, Indiana
- Amanda Naujokas, Lake Ronkonkoma, New York
- Lane Thompson, Irving, Texas

Bridget Bazile attends the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where she is majoring in Animal Science. She was captain of the basketball team her last three years of high school and played softball. She was a Central Wisconsin Conference Academic All-Conference award winner each of her four years. Her volunteer work through the National Honor Society included running a blood drive, helping with the Salvation Army, and working elementary school events.

She has been actively involved with the Wisconsin Trappers Association (WTA) since 2014, receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2017, and the Caroline Lions Club since 2011. She has been a bowling youth leader since 2017.

Bailey Knierim is a senior at William J. Brennan High School, where she ranks sixth in her class of 693. She is an AP Scholar, having taken courses in English, calculus, physics, biology, history, government and economics. She has worked with the San Antonio Food Bank, Special Olympics, and has more than 100 hours of work for the Brennan Theatre community.

She is a four-year member of her high school bowling team. She has been a youth league representative the last two years and a youth leaders association member since 2019.

Alexander Kobus is the top-ranked senior at Boone Grove High School, with a 4.13 grade-point average (4.0 scale). He has completed honors classes in algebra, geometry, history, biology and English. His community service includes numerous volunteer activities through the National Honor Society and the Boy Scouts, where he is an Eagle Scout.

Kobus recruited high school bowling teammates to assist with Special Olympics Bowling, which he has volunteered with since 2018. He was the 2019 Annual Zeb Scholarship recipient and was selected to the 2018-2019 Dexter High School All-American Team.

Amanda Naujokas is a senior at Sachem North High School, where she has a 4.0 GPA and has taken honors courses in psychology, world and United States history, environmental science and Spanish. A member of the National Honor Society, Foreign Language Honor Society, and Business and Marketing Honor Society, she has more than 200 hours of community service.

The captain of the bowling team, she currently is a member of the Junior Team USA U17 Development team. She has signed to bowl for Vanderbilt in the fall.

Lane Thompson, a senior at Nimitz High School, is captain of the bowling team and plays saxophone in the school band, including the jazz band and orchestra. He is on the NHS Superintendent Advisory Council and was an American Sign Language (ASL) educator for teachers at his high school the last two years.

He was the North Central Texas USBC Youth Bowler of the Year in 2019 and helped run the youth state tournament. He assisted at the International Training and Research Center when the 2018 Junior Gold Championships were in Dallas.

In addition to being a USBC Youth member, applicants for the Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship must have been a senior in high school or a college student, and have a record of strong community involvement and academic achievements, as well as financial need. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 based on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent).

Visit [BOWL.com/ScholarshipsAwards](https://www.usbc.com/ScholarshipsAwards) to learn more about scholarships available for USBC Youth bowlers.

## **IBC YOUTH SETS JUNE 1 DATE FOR 2020 JUNIOR GOLD DECISION; QUALIFYING EXTENDED**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – International Bowling Campus Youth Development will announce decisions on the 2020 Junior Gold Championships presented by Hammer, and the companion youth events scheduled to take place in July in Las Vegas, on June 1.

Because of COVID-19 public health concerns, IBC Youth will follow public health directives when making decisions on the events.

With the postponement of leagues and events in the past month, IBC Youth Development also announced it has extended the deadline for qualifying events for the 2020 Junior Gold Championships to June 15, 2020.

Currently, the 2020 Junior Gold Championships are set to take place July 10-18, the USA Bowling National Championships are scheduled for July 8-9 and 12, and the Bowling.com Youth Open Championships are set for July 8.

The Junior Gold Championships is the premier event for the nation's top youth bowlers. Champions are crowned in four divisions – 12-and-under, 15-and-under, 17-and-under and 20-and-under – and competitors can earn spots on Junior Team USA.

## **NORTH CAROLINA YOUTH BOWLER SELECTED AS ALBERTA E. CROWE STAR OF TOMORROW**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Caroline Thesier of Mooresville, North Carolina, who won the U17 title at last summer's Junior Gold Championships, has been selected as the 2020 Alberta E. Crowe Star of Tomorrow by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee.

The prestigious award recognizes the star qualities of a female high school senior or college student, including accomplishments on the lanes, academic achievement and community service. Thesier will receive a \$6,000 scholarship as this year's award recipient.

"Winning this award means more to me than words can describe," Thesier said. "To be among the many talented women who have also received this honor is truly inspiring. Alberta Crowe devoted her life to bowling, and to be recognized as someone following in her footsteps is a dream come true."

A senior at South Iredell High School, she has a 4.0 grade-point average (4.60 weighted). She has taken numerous International Baccalaureate classes, from the Middle Years to the Diploma Programme, in biology, math, chemistry, psychology, and Spanish. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Beta Club, and is in the national honor society for English, Spanish, math and science.

She has been a volunteer with the Top of the Lake Rotary Club for seven years, and through the Interact Club has worked various events including the Relay for Life and the Carolina Balloon Fest. Thesier has volunteered at an elementary school for the last seven years, assisting teachers with items such as pre-year setup, has worked with her honor societies and Red Cross Club on events such as food drives and book drives, and works with young bowlers at her local summer bowling camp.

Thesier runs her own non-profit business, Cords for a Cause, handmaking bracelets, keychains and similar items. Ninety cents of each dollar from sales goes to the Ballard vs. The Big C charity, with 10 cents going to purchase new supplies.

In addition to winning the U17 title at the 2019 Junior Gold Championships, Thesier owns more than 30 scratch youth titles. She was selected for Junior Team USA in 2019, after finishing 11th (sixth among youth bowlers) at the U.S. Amateur, and participated at the 2019 U.S. Open in her hometown, earning a spot in the 144-player field through the pre-tournament qualifier.

Thesier is headed to Vanderbilt in the fall, where she plans to double-major in neuroscience and psychology and bowl for the Commodores.

USBC Hall of Fame member Betty Kuczynski was the first Alberta E. Crowe Star of Tomorrow winner in 1961. Other Hall of Fame members to receive the award are Joy Abel (1962), Judy Soutar (1963), Mildred Ignizio (1967), Susie Reichley (1969), Cheryl Robinson (1970), Donna Adamek (1975), Nikki Gianulias (1978), Tish Johnson (1980), Lynda (Norry) Barnes (1988) and Liz Johnson (1993).

Visit [BOWL.com/ScholarshipsAwards](http://BOWL.com/ScholarshipsAwards) for more information on scholarship opportunities for youth bowlers.

## **ALBERTA E. CROWE STAR OF TOMORROW AWARD WINNERS**

### **Year, winner, hometown**

- 1961 Betty Kuczynski, Cicero, Ill.
- 1962 Joy Abel, Lansing, Ill.
- 1963 Judy Soutar, Leawood, Kan.
- 1964 Ann Bosworth, Belleville, Ill.
- 1965 Karen Linton, El Paso, Texas
- 1966 Betty Jo Crow, Fairway, Kan.
- 1967 Mildred Ignizio, Rochester, N.Y.
- 1968 Pamela Carver, Phoenix, Ariz.
- 1969 Janice Sue Reichley, Dallas

1970 Cheryl Robinson, Destrehan, La.  
1971 Rosalyn Raab, San Antonio, Texas  
1972 Karen Gustafson, Sunland, Calif.  
1973 Leslie Ferris, Arlington, Va.  
1974 Pam Dusek, Ontario, Calif.  
1975 Donna Adamek, Apple Valley, Calif.  
1976 Regina Loveall, Amarillo, Texas  
1977 Kathy Kirst, San Antonio, Texas  
1978 Nikki Gianulias, Vallejo, Calif.  
1979 Audrey Gable, Whitehall, Pa.  
1980 Tish Johnson, Panorama City, Calif.  
1981 Shelley Johnson, Toledo, Ohio  
1982 Vicki Parker, Pelham, N.H.  
1983 Laura Dulisse, Blauvelt, N.Y.  
1984 Kristine Gross, Citrus Heights, Calif.  
1985 Becky Kregling, Stratford, Conn.  
1986 Lori Benge, Wichita, Kan.  
1987 Dionne Lee, Modesto, Calif.  
1988 Lynda Norry, Concord, Calif.  
1989 Stefanie Marek, Wilmington, Del.  
1990 Kelly Everding, Arvada, Colo.  
1991 Laura Ross, Mahwah, N.J.  
1992 Kari Murph, Dayton, Ohio  
1993 Elizabeth Johnson, Niagara Falls, N.Y.  
1994 Pamela Inloes, Modesto, Calif.  
1995 Kassy Hyman, Dyer, Ind.  
1996 Michelle Ewald, St. Clair Shores, Mich.  
1997 Kimberly Claus, Mesquite, Texas  
1998 Diandra Hyman, Dyer, Ind.  
1999 Amy Rocco, Phoenix  
2000 Robin Crawford, Hendersonville, Tenn.  
2001 Melissa Bellinder, Fullerton, Calif.  
2002 Anita Manns, Austin, Texas  
2003 Lindsey Coulls, Centerville, Ohio  
2004 Amanda Burgoyne, Newport, Minn.  
2005 Cassandra Leuthold, Blackhawk, S.D.  
2006 Josie Earnest, Vandalia, Ill.  
2007 Joi Bell, Pflugerville, Texas  
2008 Brittni Hamilton, Webster, N.Y.  
2009 Ricki Williams, Wichita, Kan.  
2010 Heather D'Errico, Rochester, N.Y.  
2011 Nicole Mosesso, Centerville, Ohio  
2012 Megan Buja, Rockford, Ill.  
2013 Melanie Hannon, Cheektowaga, N.Y.  
2014 Melanie Crawford, Plano, Texas  
2015 Emma Kuhn, Texas City, Texas

2016 Gazmine Mason, Cranston, R.I.  
2017 Natalie Koprowitz, Girard, Ill.  
2018 Crystal Singh, Coral Springs, Fla.  
2019 Mabel Cummins, Elburn, Ill.  
2020 Caroline Thesier, Mooresville, N.C.

## **KENTUCKY YOUTH BOWLER NAMED CHUCK HALL STAR OF TOMORROW**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Ryan Gatton of Owensboro, Kentucky, has been selected as the 2020 Chuck Hall Star of Tomorrow Award winner by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee.

The annual award recognizes star qualities in a United States Bowling Congress Youth member, including distinguished bowling performances on the local, state and national levels, academic achievement and community involvement. Applicants must be a male high school senior or college student.

Gatton receives a \$6,000 scholarship as this year's award recipient.

"Receiving this award is proof that my hard work has paid off and I am honored to have been chosen," Gatton said. "I have worked extremely diligently in both bowling and academics to get to where I am now, and this award is a vindication of that. It is special to me because bowling and school have been huge parts of my life and to receive a scholarship for those two things that I love to do is amazing."

A senior at Apollo High School, Gatton has a 4.0 grade-point average (4.27 weighted) and has taken Advanced Placement courses in biology, environmental science, calculus, statistics, English language and English Literature, history and European history, in addition to dual-credit classes.

He was recognized as an AP Scholar in 2018 and received the AP Scholar with Distinction Award for the 2018-2019 school year. He also was the recipient of the 2019 Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award.

His volunteer projects as a member of the National Honor Society and Beta Club include serving at the Cliff Hagan Boys and Girls Club. For the last four years, he volunteered at the Special Olympics Bowling regional event.

A bowler since age 4, he previously served as a youth board member with the Owensboro Bowling Association. He reached a personal goal by rolling a 300 game in March of 2019.

Gatton helped start the bowling program at Apollo High School and was team captain for the 2019-2020 season. A Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) Academic All-State selection each year, he was named the 2019-2020 Midway University/KHSAA Male Bowling Student-Athlete of the Year.

He plans to attend Western Kentucky University in the fall and major in education.

“Many teachers have had a huge impact on my life, so I plan to pay that forward,” Gatton said. “I plan on becoming a high school English teacher.”

Visit [BOWL.com/ScholarshipsAwards](http://BOWL.com/ScholarshipsAwards) for more information on scholarship opportunities for youth bowlers.

### **CHUCK HALL STAR OF TOMORROW AWARD WINNERS**

#### **Year, winner, hometown**

1980 Chris Whitty, Simonton, Texas  
1981 Drew Barthle, Tampa, Fla.  
1982 Ricky Corona, Oakland, Calif.  
1983 Dan Nadeau, Las Vegas  
1984 Robert Beck, Houston  
1985 Justin Hromek, Andover, Kan.  
1986 Pat Healey, Wichita, Kan.  
1987 Mark Fisser, Buena Park, Calif.  
1988 Bradley Joinetz, San Antonio, Texas  
1989 Lonnie Waliczek, Wichita, Kan.  
1990 Jason McCarty, Fultondale, Ala.  
1991 Chris Williams, Anchorage, Alaska  
1992 Robert Smith, Moorpark, Calif.  
1993 Vince Biondo, Hoffman Estates, Ill.  
1994 Michael Mullin, New City, N.Y.  
1995 John Miller, Wichita, Kan.  
1996 David Eisenberg, Kendall Park, N.J.  
1997 Todd Filter, Cedarburg, Wis.  
1998 James (Eddie) Kirtley, Bowling Green, Ky.  
1999 Andrew Cain, Glendale, Ariz.  
2000 Scott Norton, Cypress, Calif.  
2001 Sean Rash, Anchorage, Alaska  
2002 Nathan Bohr, Austin, Texas  
2003 Marc D’Errico, Rochester, N.Y.  
2004 Patrick Haggerty, Weimar, Calif.  
2005 Brandon Temple, Tempe, Ariz.  
2006 Eric Helmrich, Saint Leonard, Md.  
2007 Jonathan Buckert, Rochester, N.Y.  
2008 Kyle Kahlden, Houston  
2009 Chris Bardol, Brockport, N.Y.  
2010 Andrew Koff, Miami, Fla.

2011 Brent Bowers, Mulvane, Kan.  
2012 Kyle Anderson, Lockport, Ill.  
2013 Joey Kopera, Orland Park, Ill.  
2014 Derick Holmes, Wichita, Kan.  
2015 Anthony Sidari, Hazleton, Pa.  
2016 Jack Cook, Denville, N.J.  
2017 Carson Opela, Rio Rancho, N.M.  
2018 Alex Olendorff, St. Louis, Mo.  
2019 Trace Nuss of Tampa, Fla.  
2020 Ryan Gatton, Owensboro, Ky.

## **TWELVE YOUTH BOWLERS RECEIVE GIFT FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIP**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Twelve United States Bowling Congress Youth members have been selected by the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee to receive a Gift For Life Scholarship.

The Gift For Life Scholarships are presented annually to youth bowlers who currently are in high school and can demonstrate financial need. Applicants are selected based on submitted applications, must have a grade-point average of 2.5 or higher (based on a 4.0 scale) and provide at least two letters of recommendation.

Each award winner receives a \$1,000 scholarship managed through the SMART program.

The Gift For Life Scholarship recipients for 2020 are:

- Katelin Bostian, Salisbury, North Carolina – A senior at Jesse C. Carson High School, she is ranked eighth in her class of 274. She has volunteered at numerous events through Key Club, which she serves as treasurer, and is the president of the International Thespian Society.
- Denver Boxleitner, Cape Coral, Florida – The Island Coast High School junior is a member of the varsity bowling and tennis teams. She has volunteered with Take Stock in Children and the Northwest Cape Coral Regional Library.
- Lyndsey Capps, Colorado Springs, Colorado – The Doherty High School 10th grader is taking honors courses in algebra, engineering, English and history. She has been a 4H member since 2014, volunteered with Care and Share, sorting canned food, and the annual Alzheimer's Walk. She also served meals through her church.
- Rhett Fullhart, West Point, Iowa – A senior at Holy Trinity Catholic High School, he is involved in the chess, music and theatre clubs, and competes in bowling,

golf, baseball and trap. He volunteers at the local food pantry and through his church.

- Ryan Hanzak, Concord Township, Ohio – A junior at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin, he is a member of the bowling, golf and basketball teams, and a school ambassador. He volunteers through his church, worked at the local library book sale and ran a clothing drive.
- Victoria Hoffman, Stillwater, Oklahoma – A Stillwater High School senior, she served as committee chair for Stillwater Makes a Change, a student-led group that raised more than \$350,000 for a local nonprofit organization. She made state band, and was in Unified Peers, Beta Club and Key Club.
- RJ Hooper, Enid, Oklahoma – The Enid High School senior's community service includes working with Mission Enid, which included building multiple handicap ramps, clearing limbs after ice storms, and doing home repairs for low-income families. He is in the school orchestra and competes in bowling and track.
- Waylon Metts, Louisville, Kentucky – The St. Xavier High School senior earned the rank of Eagle Scout last fall after completing his project with Norton Children's Hospital. He is a National Honor Society member and a four-year member of the bowling team.
- Tyler Seeley, Parker, Colorado – A senior at Legend High School, he is in the bowling and calculus clubs, and in the school orchestra. He volunteered with the Parker Task Force, assisting in the food bank warehouse, and did meal prep for Feed My Starving Children.
- Trinity Stuart, Westminster, Colorado – A senior at Jefferson Academy, she has taken honors courses in English, biology, algebra, history and chemistry. She is a member of the golf and bowling teams and has volunteered with the Kiwanis Pins for Kids benefit and the Beat The Amateur scholarship fundraising golfing event.
- Ashton Wardrup, Santa Fe, Texas – A senior at Santa Fe High School, he has volunteered with Special Olympics and has been involved with the Texas and Greater Houston USBC Youth Leaders. He is a four-year member of the high school bowling team.
- Brandon White, Canton, Illinois – The senior at Canton High School, who recently completed his Eagle Scout project, has worked numerous community service projects through the Boy Scouts. In addition to league bowling, he is a four-year member of the varsity soccer team.

Each year, two of the Gift For Life scholarships are reserved for the children of fire department, emergency rescue or police personnel. This year, the fathers of Hoffman and Fullhart both serve as police officers.

## **USBC COLLEGIATE CONCURS WITH DECISION OF MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Bowling Congress Collegiate Division will not extend eligibility for student-athletes who had their 2019-2020 bowling postseason cut short because of COVID-19 public health concerns.

The decision by USBC Collegiate follows the decision of major collegiate athletic associations, including the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), and National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), to grant an eligibility waiver only to student-athletes in spring sports.

USBC Collegiate announced the postponement of the Intercollegiate Singles and Team Sectionals on March 12. After determining there was no available timeframe to conduct the collegiate postseason events, USBC announced the cancellation of the Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships on March 18.

## **2020 USBC OPEN AND WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS START DATES MOVED TO SEPTEMBER**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The scheduled start of the 2020 United States Bowling Congress Open Championships and 2020 USBC Women's Championships will move to September and include a modified format to allow for increased social distancing for competitors.

The move to September is designed to give tournament bowlers more time to focus on their personal situations during this difficult period. In surveys, registered competitors said they still would like to participate in the tournament late in the year, if public health conditions allow. Moving the tournaments to September gives everyone a chance to consider their options and plan for their own circumstances.

The Open Championships at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada, will start Sept. 12 and run until Nov. 21 (last team date), while the Women's Championships at

the South Point Bowling Plaza in Las Vegas will kick off Sept. 19 and run through Oct. 18.

The tournaments will feature a shorter daily squad schedule, without early-morning or late-night squads. A survey showed 62 percent of Open Championships registered teams are interested in bowling in the fall, while 37 percent of Women's Championships teams expressed interest. Since there is a lot of uncertainty, the schedule is built with some flexibility. Additional team squads can be added every other day or tournament dates can be extended, if more teams want to compete.

"Our first concern is the well-being of our members," USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said. "Moving the tournaments to later in the year gives our bowlers and their families a chance to consider what is best for their circumstances. We appreciate the amazing patience and compassion that we have seen from all of our team captains throughout this process."

For both the Open and Women's Championships, the format will include only one team on a pair, to allow for increased social distancing and reduce the number of teams per squad. USBC will continue to collaborate with its venue hosts and modify participant flow, space markings and occupancy, as well as photo and squad room processes, based on public health guidelines.

With the 2020-2021 bowling season officially starting on Aug. 1, the 2020-2021 season rules, including the no-balance hole rule, will be in effect.

USBC will provide pre-registration to Captain's Club members – coordinators with five or more teams – starting April 17, asking them to submit a form with the dates their teams want to compete, which will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration will open to the public on April 27, at which time teams will be able to go into the Online Registration System and move their 2020 teams to any open dates/squads.

Teams that choose not to compete in 2020 may request to have their payment used for the 2021 tournament or they may submit a request for a refund.

Visit the [Open Championships](#) or [Women's Championships](#) information page for directions on changing your team date, applying your payment to the 2021 event or to request a refund.

## **COLLEGIATE ALL-AMERICA TEAMS ANNOUNCED FOR 2019-2020 SEASON**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Webber International’s Caitlyn Johnson and Tom Hankey Jr. were recognized by the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association (NCBCA) as the Most Valuable Players of the 2019-2020 collegiate bowling season.

Wednesday’s announcement of the NCBCA All-America teams and award winners took place live on BowlTV.com.

The International Bowling Media Association (IBMA) award winners also were announced Wednesday, with Johnson and Hankey earning the top honors.

Johnson, a senior, claimed the award for the second time (2017-2018) and earned her third consecutive appearance on the NCBCA All-America first team. She averaged more than 210 in nine events this season, which included six top-five individual finishes and a win at the Glenn Carlson Las Vegas Invitational, a Tier I event on the United States Bowling Congress Collegiate schedule.

Johnson led the nation in average differential (38.03) and paced all female competitors in Tier I average (215.9) and average differential (40.34).

Joining Johnson on the All-America first team are Mount Mercy’s Ayra Aminuddin, Indiana Tech’s Maryssa Carey, Pikeville’s Lauren Piotrowski and St. Francis-Illinois’ Abby Ragsdale, the 2018-2019 Most Valuable Player.

Aminuddin also was selected as the NCBCA Rookie of the Year.

Hankey, a sophomore, continued his momentum after winning the Intercollegiate Singles Championships in 2019 and helping the Warriors claim the Intercollegiate Team Championships.

He led the nation in average (217.98) and placed second overall in average differential (35.58), recording three top-five finishes in nine events. Two of those performances came at Tier I events (Brunswick Southern Collegiate Classic and Glenn Carlson Las Vegas Invitational).

Hankey is joined on the All-America first team by Savannah College of Art and Design-Savannah’s Dylan Byars and Benjamin Martinez, Wichita State’s Brandon Biondo and McKendree’s Charlie Reid.

Calumet’s Kevin McCune was selected as NCBCA Rookie of the Year, in addition to being part of the All-America second team.

The NCBCA Kerm Helmer Coach of the Year awards went to Mount Mercy women’s coach Andy Diercks and Wichita State men’s coach Rick Steelsmith.

Jeff Fleck of the Raider Classic Club Championships was recognized with the Gordon Teigen Meritorious Service Award. The annual award recognizes an individual for outstanding service

to collegiate bowling.

More than 1,030 student-athletes also earned academic Scholar Athlete status for the 2019-2020 season. To see the full list, click [here](#).

BowlTV also recognized the award winners in four other collegiate associations prior to Wednesday's broadcast. Those organizations included the National Tenpin Coaches Association (NTCA), National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), and Club Team Bowling Coaches Association (CTBCA).

For a full list of all award winners, click [here](#).

Visit [BOWL.com/Collegiate](http://BOWL.com/Collegiate) for more information on USBC Collegiate.

## **NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BOWLING COACHES ASSOCIATION 2019-2020 ALL-AMERICA TEAMS**

### **MEN**

**First Team** – Brandon Biondo, Wichita State; Dylan Byars, SCAD-Savannah; Tom Hankey Jr., Webber International; Benjamin Martinez, SCAD-Savannah; Charlie Reid, McKendree

**Second Team** – Cerell Cardines, Nevada-Las Vegas; Daniel Chin, Calumet; Bryan Hahlen, McKendree; Dawson Maier, Indiana Tech; Kevin McCune, Calumet

**Honorable Mention** – Brady Adler, Martin Methodist; Tiler Levesque, William Paterson; Ryan Lopano, Emmanuel; Brandon Mooney, Wisconsin-Whitewater; Jalen Mosley, Midland; Andrew Orf, McKendree; Jorge Rodriguez, Lincoln Memorial; Andrew Sacks, Lindenwood; Brandon Soedarmasto, St. John's; Ryan Winters, Wisconsin-Whitewater

**Most Valuable Player** – Tom Hankey Jr., Webber International

**Rookie of the Year** – Kevin McCune, Calumet

**Kerm Helmer Coach of the Year** – Rick Steelsmith, Wichita State

### **WOMEN**

**First Team** – Ayra Aminuddin, Mount Mercy; Maryssa Carey, Indiana Tech; Caitlyn Johnson, Webber International; Lauren Piotrowski, Pikeville; Abby Ragsdale, St. Francis-Illinois

**Second Team** – Mattie Brandos, Robert Morris-Illinois; Megan Carpenter, Baker; Breanna Clemmer, McKendree; Kaitlyn Keith, St. Ambrose; Pamela Perez Millan, SCAD-Savannah

**Honorable Mention** – Taylor Bailey, McKendree; Lindsay Brown, Martin Methodist; Rebekah Commane, SCAD-Savannah; Cassidy Courey, Mount Mercy; Emma Davis, Alma; Addy Nelson, St. Ambrose; Tamera Stanton, Mount St. Mary's; Madison Stiffler, Wright State; Sydney Urben, Mount Mercy; Jessica Wolfe, Pikeville

**Most Valuable Player** – Caitlyn Johnson, Webber International

**Rookie of the Year** – Ayra Aminuddin, Mount Mercy

**Kerm Helmer Coach of the Year** – Andy Diercks, Mount Mercy

**Teigen Meritorious Service Award** – Jeff Fleck, Raider Classic Club Championships

## **INTERNATIONAL BOWLING MEDIA ASSOCIATION 2019-2020 COLLEGIATE AWARDS**

## **MEN**

**Bowler of the Year** – Tom Hankey Jr., Webber International

**Runners-Up** – Brandon Biondo, Wichita State; Dylan Byars, SCAD-Savannah; Bryan Hahlen, McKendree; Benjamin Martinez, SCAD-Savannah

**Honorable Mention** – Cerell Cardines, Nevada-Las Vegas; Kevin McCune, Calumet; Brandon Mooney, Wisconsin-Whitewater

## **WOMEN**

**Bowler of the Year** – Caitlyn Johnson, Webber International

**Runners-Up** – Ayra Aminuddin, Mount Mercy; Breanna Clemmer, McKendree; Lauren Piotrowski, Pikeville; Abby Ragsdale, St. Francis-Illinois

**Honorable Mention** – Taylor Bailey, McKendree; Mattie Brandos, Robert Morris-Illinois; Maryssa Carey, Indiana Tech

## **IBC YOUTH CANCELS 2020 JUNIOR GOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, OTHER YOUTH SUMMER EVENTS**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – International Bowling Campus Youth Development has canceled its national youth championships events, including the Junior Gold Championships presented by Hammer, scheduled for July in Las Vegas.

The cancellation of events includes the USA Bowling National Championships, the Bowling.com Youth Open Championships, and the Survivor tournament.

More than 4,000 youths already had qualified for the events, set to take place at seven bowling centers in Las Vegas from July 8-26.

“All of us at IBC Youth understand and share in the disappointment, as July is our time to celebrate youth bowling with the athletes, families, coaches, and volunteers,” said Gary Brown, IBC Youth Managing Director. “But this summer is the time to ensure the focus is on the safety and welfare of our bowling families.”

The COVID-19 pandemic already has had a damaging financial impact on families throughout the country and likely will affect the ability of many athletes to attend. Others may choose not to attend out of travel concerns, and IBC Youth does not feel it is proper to put any additional stress on our advancers’ families.

“We appreciate everyone’s understanding and support as we navigate through this,” USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said. “The tournaments already were impacted as Junior Gold local qualifiers and USA Bowling regional qualifying events could not be held in the past month, which was the right thing to do as we protect our families.”

Over the next few weeks, every 2020 Junior Gold qualifier will have their qualifying fee (\$100, \$150 or \$200) deposited into their SMART account. IBC Youth will add an

additional \$70,000 to the scholarship pool, which will be distributed evenly to the advancers.

Refunds for Spectator Passes, along with Youth Open and Survivor entry fees, also will be processed during this time, and any tournament coordinator who was unable to conduct their event will have their entry fee refunded.

All scholarships and refunds will be completed by the end of April.

IBC Youth considered postponing the events, but once we looked at the uncertainties about when local quarantines will be lifted and the logistical factors of an event that covers a few weeks and numerous bowling centers, moving to other dates was not a viable option.

And, of course, bowling centers also have been greatly impacted. As mentioned, local qualifying events were canceled and, with centers having been closed for at least a month, athletes likely would have taken part in their biggest tournament of the year without the ability to practice and train.

“Everyone has seen how businesses have been hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic over the last month, and that includes bowling centers,” Bowling Proprietors’ Association of America Executive Director Frank DeSocio said. “Canceling the events has a financial impact on the centers but everyone understands protecting our communities is the goal. Hopefully, we are able to open our doors soon and get everyone back on the lanes.”

The qualifying season for the 2021 Junior Gold Championships still will kick off on May 1, 2020. IBC Youth Development encourages local coordinators to follow local guidelines before hosting a qualifying event.

Qualifying spots earned for the 2020 Junior Gold Championships and 2020 USA Bowling National Championships will not carry over to 2021 event. Age-division waivers will not be granted, and all athletes will be required to qualify in their appropriate age division during the 2020-2021 qualifying season.

The teams that qualified for the 2020 USA Bowling National Championships are considered champions for their region, and IBC Youth will ship your team its national jerseys.

Indianapolis will be the host city for the [Junior Gold Championships](#), [USA Bowling National Championships](#), [Youth Open Championships](#) and Survivor tournament in 2021.

## **USBC SUSPENDS TEAM USA PROGRAMS FOR 2020**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Bowling Congress has suspended the Team USA and Junior Team USA programs for the remainder of 2020 because of uncertainty

related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the postponement of international competitions to 2021.

This was a painful and difficult decision for everyone involved as the Team USA program represents the core of USBC's mission, vision and values. Team USA programs provide athletes the opportunity to compete against the best in their sport on an international stage, and bowling is no different. Earning a roster spot and representing the United States in international competitions is an aspirational goal that begins for many as young bowlers at the Junior Gold Championships.

But the COVID-19 pandemic has stopped the sports world. World Bowling has pushed its world championships events to 2021, and USBC is focused on the well-being of our athletes and communities. Sadly, it appears clear there will be no international events for Team USA in 2020, and training as a team in the elite environment Team USA deserves will not be possible in the near future.

While USBC feels suspending the Team USA program for 2020 is the only responsible choice, we believe no athlete should be deprived the Team USA experience they earned or the opportunity to compete for the U.S. because of something out of their control.

Therefore, all 2020 Team USA and Junior Team USA members, if they remain age-eligible, automatically will be placed on their respective 2021 teams.

“We know this is disappointing for our Team USA athletes who worked hard to earn the honor of representing our country in competition,” Team USA Head Coach Rod Ross said about suspending Team USA operations in 2020. “Unfortunately, we do not see any possibility of Team USA competing this calendar year. We look forward to 2021, with a stronger expanded team that includes current team members and those who make the squad at the 2021 (USBC) Team USA Trials.”

Team USA competes in prestigious events throughout the world and 2020 was to feature such events as the World Youth Championships, World Singles Championships, Pan American Combined Championships, Pan American Champion of Champions and the annual QubicaAMF World Cup.

The attention now will turn to 2021 and bowlers still will be able to earn spots on next year's teams at the Team USA Trials and U.S. Amateur Championships, scheduled for January 2021.

At the 2021 Team USA Trials and U.S. Amateur Championships, the following competitors will earn spots:

**2021 Team USA**

- \* The top four men and top four women, by performance
- \* The U.S. Amateur champions

\* Two men and two women will be at-large selections made by the National Selection Committee (NSC)

### **2021 Junior Team USA**

- \* The top four boys and top four girls, by performance, who are age-eligible
- \* Two boys and two girls will be at-large selections made by the NSC

The annual summer camps for Team USA, Junior Team USA and the junior developmental teams also will return in 2021.

These decisions were made in consultation with the USBC Athletes Advisory Council (AAC). The AAC is a group of current and former Team USA athletes serving with a mission to communicate the interests and protect the rights of athletes. All members have represented USBC Team USA in the Pan American Games, World Bowling World Championships or American Zone Championships or other major international competition in the past 10 years.

Team USA members not only are the top athletes in the sport but also are the most visible ambassadors of bowling. Learn more about the team members and the Team USA programs at [BOWL.com/TeamUSA](https://www.bowl.com/TeamUSA) and [BOWL.com/JuniorTeamUSA](https://www.bowl.com/JuniorTeamUSA).

## **USBC CANCELS 2020 CONVENTION; MCDANIEL ELECTED USBC PRESIDENT**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Bowling Congress Board of Directors approved a special resolution to cancel the 2020 USBC Convention and postpone the Annual Meeting until 2021 because of COVID-19 public health restrictions.

The resolution was enacted to ensure a proper governance process under USBC Bylaws during these extraordinary public health circumstances. The resolution allows continuity of governance to be properly maintained in accordance with applicable laws until delegates can meet at the 2021 USBC Convention and Annual Meeting.

Under the resolution, the USBC president for the 2020-2021 season can appoint, with USBC board approval, delegate directors to fill the positions of delegate directors whose terms expire July 31, 2020. The delegates will be asked to ratify the appointments at the 2021 USBC Annual Meeting.

As part of the resolution, the proposed amendments for the 2020 Annual Meeting will be decided by delegates at the 2021 Annual Meeting. Any amendments approved at the 2021 Annual Meeting will take effect Aug. 1, 2021, unless stated otherwise. The legislative process for the 2021 Annual Meeting does not change, as members may request any bylaws or playing rules changes in writing to USBC by Sept. 1, 2020.

The USBC board also held its officer elections, with Melissa McDaniel of Raleigh, North Carolina, elected president and Adam Mitchell of Centreville, Virginia, selected as vice president. Both will begin their terms on Aug. 1, 2020.

“The decision to cancel the 2020 USBC Convention was very difficult and saddening for everyone on the USBC board,” USBC President Karl Kielich said. “Nevertheless, I am proud of our board for coming together on a path that puts the well-being of our members first and ensures a smooth transfer of leadership and governance responsibility. I congratulate Melissa and Adam on their elections and have full confidence in their ability to continue leading USBC in a positive direction.”

McDaniel currently is the International Bowling Campus Youth Committee chair. She has led the largest youth program in the country as center director and head coach. Mitchell has been a board member for Nation’s Capital Area USBC since 2014 and is a current Virginia State Youth Director.

“I am humbled to receive the support of the USBC board and excited about the future of our organization,” McDaniel said. “I look forward to working with our staff and board to continue advancing the outstanding programs and initiatives that we are building together.”

Mitchell was one of three appointments made by McDaniel, as incoming USBC president, to fill delegate-director positions for the 2020-2021 season. On July 31, Mitchell’s first term will expire, while director Jo Dimond and USBC President Karl Kielich each will reach their term limit.

Glenda Beckett of Palmetto Bay, Florida, and Tina Williams of Pflugerville, Texas, also were appointed as delegate directors by McDaniel.

The appointed board members, approved by the full board, were selected from the slate of candidates who formed the ballot for the 2020 election. Delegates will be asked to ratify the appointments at the 2021 USBC Annual Meeting.

Applications for the three delegate-director positions that start with the 2021-2022 season, with a three-year term running through July 31, 2024, will open this summer. Delegates will vote to fill those positions, at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

In addition to the appointments, other positions on the USBC board have been determined.

Bowling Proprietors’ Association of America (BPAA) Vice President Jim Decker, the owner of Double Decker Lanes in Rohnert Park, California, was selected by BPAA to serve as its representative on the USBC board. The position currently is held by Cathy DeSocio, who reaches her term limit on July 31.

Cornell M. Jackson of Kilmarnock, Virginia, has been appointed to serve a sixth year as director-at-large, representing The National Bowling Association (TNBA).

Nick Pate of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, and Liz Kuhlkin of Schenectady, New York, were elected to the USBC board by Team USA athletes, with their three-year terms starting Aug. 1.

Pate already is serving on the board, as he was appointed as an athlete representative in January to complete the remaining term of Rhino Page, who resigned to focus on new business opportunities in the bowling industry. Kuhlkin fills the spot held by Kelly Kulick, the USBC Hall of Fame member who will reach her term limit on July 31.

Additionally the USBC board adopted a proposal to amend USBC National Bylaws Article IV, Section E, adding a new item 15 that gives the board the authority to temporarily amend or suspend the bylaws, state, local and affiliate bylaws and the league rules and tournament rules in cases of government-declared emergencies or disasters, pandemic, attack on the United States, or any nuclear or atomic disaster.

The proposal was adopted by the USBC board effective immediately. In accordance with Article IV, Section E, Item 14 of the USBC National Bylaws, the proposal will be presented to delegates for approval at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

With many state and local associations also unable to conduct an annual meeting in 2020, the USBC board has suspended USBC Bylaw Article VI, Section A, Item 1. The suspension of the bylaw allows national delegates elected for a term ending Aug. 1, 2020, to remain in their position for the 2020-2021 season and remain eligible to attend the 2021 USBC Annual Meeting for those associations unable to elect delegates for 2021.

All award winners and honorees scheduled to be recognized at the 2020 USBC Convention will be invited to the 2021 event. This includes the induction ceremony for the 2020 USBC Hall of Fame Class and the recognition of the 2020 award and scholarship winners.

USBC staff will contact 2020 USBC Convention delegates who purchased optional event tickets, such as meals or USBC Hall of Fame tickets, to provide refunds.

The decisions of the USBC board were made following recommendations of the USBC Executive Advisory Committee.

Visit [BOWL.com/Convention](https://www.bowl.com/convention) for the complete text of the resolution and for frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the 2020 and 2021 USBC Conventions and Annual Meetings.

## **RESEARCH PROMPTS USBC TO PROPOSE ADJUSTED SPECIFICATION FOR BOWLING BALL HARDNESS**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – After conducting research and performing field tests on bowling balls used in competition, the United States Bowling Congress proposes adjusting the specification for ball hardness to 73D for all models.

As part of the proposed specification change, USBC proposes eliminating the use of field tests to check bowling ball hardness because of challenges related to workability, temperature control and variances in testing devices.

Manufacturers will be asked to discontinue additional production of models previously approved below 73D by July 31, 2021. USBC is inviting a comment period for manufacturers through June 1, 2020, on the proposed changes.

The USBC Equipment Specifications Committee, which has delegated authority from the USBC Board to make equipment specification changes, proposes specification changes based on research provided by the USBC Equipment Specifications and Certifications staff.

The ESC staff conducted field tests on bowling balls at the 2020 U.S. Open and at the 2020 World Series of Bowling in advance of the 2020 USBC Masters. The field tests demonstrated urethane shells naturally become softer with use over time, compared to when initially approved, while reactive shells show little change.

While the results vary in magnitude by manufacturer, the trends were the same. USBC field testing showed five urethane ball models across three different manufacturers averaged under 72D after use.

At time of approval, a bowling ball currently must have a hardness of 72D or higher. Raising the specification to 73D ensures reactive shell balls, which have higher hook potential than urethane, will stay above 72D hardness at all times.

The proposed specification allows balls to soften, as they naturally will with use over time. Currently, 32 ball models approved by USBC passed testing with at least one sample ball under 73D. All previously approved balls remain approved and can continue to be used in competition under the proposal, and any balls confiscated by USBC during field testing for additional research would be returned and could be used in competition. USBC does not feel having urethane balls naturally fall below the hardness specification is a competition concern, since reactive balls have more hook potential than urethane.

USBC will maintain the requirement preventing bowlers from altering ball hardness as listed in the Equipment Specifications manual and in the USBC Rulebook (Rule 17a. Unfair Tactics):

- \* The use of chemicals, or other methods, to change the hardness of the surface of the ball after it is manufactured is prohibited.

Visit [BOWL.com/EquipAndSpecs](https://www.bowl.com/EquipAndSpecs) for the 2020 Hardness Research Report and related research.

## **DATES SET FOR 2021 JUNIOR GOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS; U20 DIVISION TO KICK OFF EVENT**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – International Bowling Campus Youth Development has set the dates and divisions for the 2021 Junior Gold Championships that will take place in Indianapolis.

The 2021 Junior Gold Championships will be held July 5-17, 2021. Indianapolis will extend its record for most times to host, as the 2021 event marks the event's sixth visit to the city.

With the maximum age for USBC Youth membership changing to 18 with the start of the 2020-2021 season, the U20 division will take place during the first week of the event, breaking away the adult from the youth divisions. The U20 division will be for bowlers born between Aug. 1, 2000 and July 31, 2002.

The U18 division becomes the oldest division for USBC Youth bowlers, with the U18, U15 and U12 divisions hitting the lanes following the U20 competition. The age breakdowns for the other Junior Gold divisions are: U18 (Aug. 1, 2002-July 31, 2005); U15 (Aug. 1, 2005-July 31, 2008); U12 (Aug. 1, 2008 and later).

The Junior Gold qualifying season officially kicks off May 1, 2020 and will run until May 16, 2021. Competitors must have a Junior Gold membership, which costs \$10 for U12 competitors and \$30 for all other divisions, in addition to USBC Youth membership or, for U20 bowlers, adult membership.

Junior Gold coordinators also need to be aware that U20 qualifying events must be held separately, with only U20 competitors in the field. Qualifying events for U18, U15, and U12 divisions can be combined.

With many states remaining under COVID-19 restrictions, IBC Youth Development encourages local coordinators to follow local guidelines before hosting a qualifying event.

IBC Youth Development also set dates for the national youth events that will take place in Indianapolis in conjunction with the Junior Gold Championships.

The USA Bowling National Championships qualifying rounds will be held July 7-8 with the U12 and U15 title matches on July 11. Regional qualifying events will start in the fall.

The Bowling.com Youth Open Championships will take place July 7-9, 16-18 and 24-25. U18 will be the oldest division for the event.

The Survivor Tournament for the U20 division is set for July 9 with the Youth Survivor taking place July 16-17.

IBC Youth also will launch two Junior Gold technology projects for the Junior Gold program.

A new Junior Gold qualifier portal, launching next week, will allow tournament directors to submit their Junior Gold Qualifier applications, upload rules, and make deposits online prior to their event. After the event, directors will be able to go online to upload results, enter advancers and alternates, and pay any remaining balance. The online portal will eliminate the need to submit paper forms.

The Junior Gold membership portal, which will launch this summer, will allow athletes to go online to log in and purchase their Junior Gold membership. Youth bowlers will be notified when the portal is available.

Visit [BOWL.com/JuniorGold](http://BOWL.com/JuniorGold) to learn more about the Junior Gold Championships and visit [BOWL.com/YouthTournaments](http://BOWL.com/YouthTournaments) to learn more about USA Bowling and the Youth Open Championships.

## **SMART CORPORATION MAKES \$3.5 MILLION INVESTMENT EARNINGS ALLOCATION**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The Scholarship Management and Account Reporting for Tenpins (SMART) is making an investment earnings allocation of \$3.5 million to provide additional scholarships for youth bowlers.

The \$3.5 million allocation is the largest investment earnings allocation made by the SMART Board over the past seven years.

The SMART Board reviews income earned from investments to determine the allocation. Any available investment earnings are allocated each May, and this year's allocation will be shown this week as available unassigned funds for Providers to use for scholarships.

Since 2017, the SMART Board has returned \$7 million in investment earnings allocations. This year's allocation is from investment earnings in 2019.

“The SMART Board is thrilled to be able to make such a substantial allocation for additional youth scholarships,” said Steve Moehrle, chair of the SMART Corporation Board. “The allocation provides additional education opportunities within our sport. The SMART Board continues to follow conservative investment strategies to protect SMART funds and it is great to deliver these significant earnings for the youth bowling community.”

The SMART Board provided investment earnings allocations of \$1.75 million in both 2018 and 2019 and made a \$1 million distribution in 2017.

Providers may only use earnings allocation funds for scholarships.

The SMART Board also saw long-serving member Wally Hall retire from the board. Hall was the first chair when the SMART Bowling Scholarship Funding Corporation was created in 2010 as an independent entity and served in that position until 2018. He has been involved in bowling for more than 60 years and is a past president of the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA).

The six-member SMART Board places the largest portion of earned scholarships in conservative securities with remaining assets invested in a diversified portfolio expected to yield larger returns. The majority of investment earnings are allocated for additional scholarship awards through participating organizations and providers, with a small portion used to cover administrative costs and investment fees.

The SMART Bowling Scholarship Funding Corporation is dedicated to the management, protection and promotion of the SMART scholarship funds. The United States Bowling Congress staff oversees the day-to-day operation of the program.

Visit [BOWL.com/SMART](https://www.bowl.com/SMART) to learn more about the SMART program.

## **USBC MODIFIES RULES TO HELP ALLOW A RETURN TO COMPETITIVE BOWLING**

*Changes include waiving alternating lane requirement and approving use of isopropyl alcohol to clean bowling balls*

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Bowling Congress Board of Directors approved waivers and modifications to USBC Playing Rules to allow certified leagues and tournaments more flexibility to return to bowling while adhering to local health guidelines related to COVID-19.

The modifications allow certified competition to take place on one lane for the entirety of a game. Additionally, bowlers will be allowed to use isopropyl alcohol, more commonly known as rubbing alcohol, to clean their bowling ball during competition. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lists isopropyl alcohol as an approved disinfectant for use against COVID-19.

“As bowling centers around the country are reopening, USBC intends to give operators the most flexibility possible to resume bowling within their local guidelines,” USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said. “We have been listening to proprietors and members as they prepare to resume certified play and made these changes based on that input. Our goal is to facilitate bowling again in a way that meets the need locally and USBC is ready to quickly consider and activate additional changes based on feedback from centers and associations.”

The USBC Board has the authority to temporarily amend or suspend league and tournament rules in emergency cases. With the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, USBC reviewed its rules and policies to identify areas of concern relating to player safety and to determine how it could promote efforts while centers adjust operations to meet local guidelines.

Effective immediately, USBC has temporarily waived USBC Playing Rules 106a, 106b, 320a and 320b, which state two lanes must be used for competition and bowlers must alternate lanes – bowling five frames on each lane of the pair. It also waived the requirement that both lanes must be used for a bowler to be eligible for awards and average recognition.

The temporary waiver allows competitions to use one lane for the entirety of a game and allows recognition of scores bowled on a single lane for USBC High Score Awards and for a bowler’s official average.

USBC will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and can rescind the waiver of Rules 106a, 106b, 320a and 320b at any time.

USBC also created an exception for Rule 18, which restricts the use of liquid cleaners to clean the outer surface of the bowling ball during USBC certified competition. The

exception for Rule 18 applies only to isopropyl alcohol – no other USBC-approved cleaners will be allowed during competition.

The USBC Board, which has the authority over General Playing Rules, was able to make the rules waivers following the adoption of General Playing Rule 14 - Emergency Authorizations. Rule 14 states USBC may authorize temporary modifications to the General Playing Rules, Award, League and Tournament Rules in cases of emergency and that such authorizations will be for a specified period.

Visit [BOWL.com/Rules](https://www.usbc.com/rules) for more information on USBC Rules.

## **DIGITAL COLLEGIATE EXPERIENCE TO CONNECT STUDENT-ATHLETES WITH COLLEGE BOWLING PROGRAMS**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Selecting a college to attend can be a daunting process for anyone, and that process can be more difficult for student-athletes seeking a college that can provide the academic path and a strong athletic program to help continue their development.

Next month, International Bowling Campus Youth Development will try to help bowling student-athletes navigate the process with the Digital Collegiate Experience on BowITV.

The Collegiate Experience, held each summer in conjunction with the Junior Gold Championships, is designed to give student-athletes the opportunity to learn more about college bowling by allowing the athletes to engage with coaches or officials of bowling programs from across the country.

The Digital Collegiate Experience will allow IBC Youth to continue its annual event though the 2020 Junior Gold Championships, along with opening ceremony and trade show, were canceled because of concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each day provides unique ways for people to connect and stay engaged, and the IBC Youth team believes it is important to continue this event.

With competitive bowling shut down since early March, it has made the recruiting process more arduous for both student-athletes hoping to show their skills and for the coaches hoping to watch and evaluate players at different competitions.

“The Digital Collegiate Experience will allow coaches to showcase their programs and explain to student-athletes and their parents the expectations they have for college athletes,” said IBC Youth Managing Director Gary Brown. “The Junior Gold Championships always has been a very important part of the recruiting and learning

process for both student-athletes and college coaches. We want to continue to provide what we consider a valuable part of the Junior Gold Championships.”

The Digital Collegiate Experience kicks off Tuesday, June 9 on BowITV. This will be a free event on BowITV, but users will need to take the few minutes to create a USBC Community login to access the show.

BowITV plans to showcase 30 colleges per day, with each college allotted up to five minutes to tell potential recruits and their parents about their program. While shows will be held on June 9 and 10, IBC Youth will add another third show if more than 60 colleges express interest.

More than 60 college organizations took part in the Collegiate Experience at the 2019 Junior Gold Championships in the metro Detroit area.

IBC Youth works with the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association (NCBCA), along with the coaching associations for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), and National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) to provide information on bowling programs across the country.

All collegiate bowling programs will be invited to take part in the Digital Collegiate Experience.

Visit [BOWL.com/Collegiate](http://BOWL.com/Collegiate) for more information about college bowling and check out [BOWL.com/BowITV](http://BOWL.com/BowITV) to learn more about USBC’s video platform.

## **SMART EXPANDS POLICY RELATING TO USE OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The Scholarship Management and Account Reporting for Tenpins (SMART) policy recently was updated to expand the use of SMART scholarships for student-related expenses.

Under the new guidelines, a student can use their SMART scholarships to be reimbursed for expenses related to tuition and certain related student expenses, or to have a payment made for such expenses as off-campus housing and/or student-loan debt.

While there are now more ways for students to use their SMART scholarships, student-athletes must remain aware of the restrictions.

Regulations of colleges and college sports governing bodies, such as the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), have specific restrictions for student-athletes. It

is the responsibility of the student-athlete to check with their school administrator and their sport governing body (NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA) regarding all regulations before using their SMART scholarships.

The reimbursement related to tuition and certain related student expenses is a new policy, as previously funds only could be sent directly to an educational institution. The reimbursement check will be made out to the owner of the SMART account and mailed to the address on the account, so it is important for recipients to always keep their SMART account information up to date.

To check, and provide any needed edits, to an address, recipients can visit the SMART profile page.

Payments for off-campus housing cannot be used if renting from parents, relatives or friends, and payment will go directly to the company or managing owner of the property, once the proper paperwork is submitted.

To use SMART scholarships to make payments on student-loan debt, current student-athletes again should make certain they are following regulations for their sport. Once the correct documentation is received, the payment will go to the student loan provider.

Visit [BOWL.com/SMART](https://www.bowl.com/SMART) to learn more about the SMART program and visit the Recipients page for the SMART Waiver Form, to request funds, and the SMART Student-Athlete information page that discusses how SMART scholarship funds can impact their eligibility.

## **USBC PROVIDES NEW SAFESPORT AND REGISTERED VOLUNTEER TOOLS TO COMPLEMENT ATHLETE SAFETY HANDBOOK**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Bowling Congress made noteworthy updates to allow USBC members to easily see their current status for U.S. Center for SafeSport training and Registered Volunteer Program (RVP) requirements.

USBC members now can monitor their athlete safety status through their profile on BOWL.com. Once signed in through the USBC Community Login, members can click on the Athlete Safety/RVP link to see their SafeSport training and Registered Volunteer status.

The Registered Volunteer Program (RVP), created in 2006, requires participants to be a USBC member in good standing, undergo a criminal background screen through the

National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI) and each season complete online training through the U.S. Center for SafeSport, which became a requirement in 2018.

The Athlete Safety/RVP link will show any missing requirements for adult members who compete with youth and, for those who are in a Registered Volunteer role, your profile will show when you need to complete your next SafeSport training program and when your background screen will need to be renewed.

Each season, a Registered Volunteer must renew their USBC membership and take SafeSport training, and every two years must go through NCSI for a criminal background screen to remain an active and approved volunteer. Adult USBC members who compete with youth bowlers also must take SafeSport training each bowling season.

Any USBC member can find out if a person is a Registered Volunteer through the Find A Register Volunteer function on BOWL.com. It is one of several popular "Find A ..." functions, including Find A Member and Find A Tournament, available to USBC members.

The search function allows you to find a list of all current Registered Volunteers in your association or city, or you can use the individual search function to see if a person is an active Registered Volunteer and when the person's RVP status expires.

Bowlers can also find their Registered Volunteer and SafeSport status through the Find A Member function. Those who are current in SafeSport training will have a SafeSport icon next to their name and those currently a Registered Volunteer, which includes SafeSport training, also will have an RVP icon.

While any USBC member can search for a volunteer through the Find A Registered Volunteer function, only the Registered Volunteer has access to their profile that shows their status related to membership, background screen and SafeSport training.

USBC also has developed a comprehensive handbook that combines policies for the U.S. Center for SafeSport and the USBC Registered Volunteer Program to detail the requirements of adult bowlers who work with, or compete alongside, youth bowlers.

## **SURVEY SHOWS A MAJORITY OF USBC MEMBERS PLAN TO BOWL IN FALL LEAGUES**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – A survey of United States Bowling Congress members conducted in late May found an overwhelming majority of bowlers were planning to bowl in a fall league when the 2020-2021 season starts in August.

USBC asked its members to respond to a one-question survey that asked: Assuming local government allows your bowling center to open and operate leagues, do you plan on bowling in leagues(s) this fall?

Respondents were asked to select from three possible answers: Yes, No or Unsure.

USBC received more than 47,000 responses in the first week, with 75% answering “Yes” and just 5% responding “No” as to whether they planned to bowl in a fall league.

With 20% of members responding as “Unsure”, the timing of the survey in late May could have been a factor. The survey was sent prior to the opening of bowling centers in many states, and respondents likely were not aware of any restrictions and how their center planned to address a return to bowling.

When the 20% responding “Unsure”, plus those who answered “No”, were directed to a follow-up question asking the reason, an overwhelming majority (80%) answered it was because of health and safety concerns.

The survey was distributed to USBC members through email, the USBC Facebook page, a pop-up on the BOWL.com homepage and in the weekly BowlTV newsletter. More than 47,000 answered in response to the email, while the remaining distribution channels delivered a combined 525 responses.

Statistically, USBC has a 99% confidence level, with less than a 1% margin of error, of the survey results and that it is a relevant and accurate representation of the entire USBC membership.

The survey also showed responses were slightly different depending on age and gender, as 78% of those age 59 or younger plan to bowl in a fall league, and men (77%) were four percent more likely to respond “Yes” to bowling this fall compared with women (73%).

Visit [BOWL.com/USBCSurveys](https://www.bowl.com/usbc-surveys) for the full results of the survey and to see a state-by-state breakdown.

## **LAS VEGAS TO HOST 2022 USBC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Bowling Congress Open Championships will head to Las Vegas in 2022 with the South Point Bowling Plaza serving as the host venue.

The event previously was scheduled to be conducted in a newly built facility in Houston but because of business interruptions caused by COVID-19, the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority and USBC mutually agreed it is not feasible for Houston to host the event in 2022.

The Sports Authority planned to have a new building in a dynamic North Houston setting completed by January 2022. Plans had been approved and was on schedule until the economic disruption from the pandemic made the project timeline unworkable.

“The USBC is an incredible partner and we are disappointed that we will not be able to host this prestigious event,” said Sports Authority CEO Janis Burke. “Our organizations put in years of planning on the building and event, but we hope to have a chance to host the USBC Open Championships in the future.”

USBC and HCHSA plan to work toward a new agreement for Houston to host the Open Championships in the future. Currently, the next available date is 2028.

“We continue to believe Houston is an ideal city for the Open Championships and the partnership with the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority has been strong through these unexpected challenges,” USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said.

“Thankfully, South Point in Las Vegas stepped up to provide their amazing venue for 2022, once again showing tremendous support for our tournament bowlers.”

With the schedule change, the Open Championships will be conducted at the South Point Bowling Plaza in Las Vegas in 2021 and 2022. The event is the world’s largest participatory event, attracting over 50,000 bowlers who compete over a four-month period.

Visit [BOWL.com/OpenChamp](https://www.bowl.com/openchamp) for more information on the Open Championships.

## **USBC POSTPONES IMPLEMENTATION OF TIERED CENTER CERTIFICATION**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) is postponing implementation of a new tiered center certification model until January 2023.

USBC is aware of the significant impact on bowling center revenue and operations because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In consideration of the disruptions, USBC reviewed the timeline for the rollout of the new tiered center certification program and decided to push back the implementation timeline by one year to allow bowling centers to focus on more immediate business needs.

Inspection of centers under the new program will not begin until Jan. 1, 2023.

Following a study of the lane certification process and analyzing data from lane inspections, USBC announced in December 2019 that it would implement a center certification program, featuring tiered levels of certification and a national staff of lane inspectors, over the next five years.

USBC also announced it would not require local associations to perform annual lane inspections as the USBC Equipment Specifications and Certifications team continues its work to fully develop the program.

USBC continues to collaborate with industry stakeholders to evaluate and build the model with details to be announced no later than the 2022 USBC Convention.

Visit [BOWL.com/CenterCertification](https://www.usbc.com/CenterCertification) for more information on the center certification program.

## **USBC ISSUES FINAL ADJUSTED BOWLING BALL HARDNESS SPECIFICATION**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Bowling Congress issued final specification changes for bowling ball hardness after reviewing comments from manufacturers.

In April, USBC announced a proposal to raise minimum hardness to 73D for all models and to eliminate the use of field tests to check bowling ball hardness because of challenges related to workability, temperature control and variances in testing devices. The changes now are final.

Based upon comments from manufacturers, USBC will extend the implementation timeline. Manufacturers will be granted ball approval at the current 72D limit through Dec. 31, 2020 and will be required to discontinue additional production of models previously approved below 73D by July 31, 2022.

## **2019-2020 DEXTER HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICAN BOWLING TEAM SELECTED**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The 2019-2020 Dexter High School All-American Team features two bowlers from last season's team, and three juniors are among the 10 high school bowlers selected for this year's squad.

The teams, selected by Dexter Bowling in consultation with the staff of International Bowling Campus Youth Development, are comprised of five girls and five boys. Bowlers must have participated on a recognized interscholastic high school bowling team during the 2019-2020 school year.

Applicants were required to have at least a 3.0 grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale) and to submit a resume of their bowling and academic achievements, along with an essay, to be considered for the team. They also were required to provide recommendation letters from their coaches or athletic directors and at least one additional letter of recommendation.

"Dexter Bowling congratulates the boys and girls who excelled on the lanes and were among the top performers in their high school classes," said Paul Sylvia, Dexter Bowling Vice President. "We had another great field of applicants this year, which shows how bowling has become an integral part of high school athletics. Dexter Bowling appreciates opportunity to recognize these outstanding student-athletes."

Each team member will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

The five student-athletes selected to the girls' team:

**Morgan Gitlitz (Freehold, New Jersey)** – The senior posted a 4.81 grade-point average and was a member of the National Honor Society and the national math and science honor societies. As captain of her high school bowling team the last three years, she helped Colts Neck High School to its first team title in 2018-2019 and set the school record for highest series (757) earlier this year.

**Victoria Lazo (Houston)** – The junior has taken honors courses since her freshman year and has a 4.12 GPA. She led Dobie High School to ninth- and third-place finishes at the state tournament and has led her district in average the last three years. Her volunteer work includes serving as a Greater Houston USBC Youth Leader for the past five years, where she currently is vice president, and with the Houston Food Bank.

**Evan Smith (Seattle)** – The senior, who took honors classes in biology, language arts and world history, also is part of the concert and marching bands at West Seattle High School. She led the charge to have a bowling team at her school and helped the team to the state tournament in its first year in 2019-2020, where she finished 12th in the individual standings. She also serves as a director on the Greater Seattle USBC board.

**Ashlyn Okazaki (Mililani, Hawaii)** – Active in performing arts, the senior was the lead or played a supporting role in numerous musical productions and also played softball for 'Iolani School. She helped her bowling team capture state titles the last two seasons, the school's first state titles. She has signed to bowl at Prairie View A&M in the fall.

**Kristin Womeldorf (Apollo, Pennsylvania)** – She posted 4.17 GPA and started taking college classes through an early start program. She was actively involved in numerous school clubs, including serving as president for the concert band and was the student council school board representative. She launched the bowling program at Apollo-Ridge High School her junior season and earned league MVP in her junior and senior seasons.

The five student-athletes selected to the boys' team:

**Tanner Ausec (Colorado Springs, Colorado)** – The senior posted a 4.25 GPA and ranked seventh in his class. As team captain, he led the Rampart High School bowling team to back-to-back state titles, the first team to accomplish the feat in Colorado. He serves as a youth director for Pikes Peak USBC and was a 2020 USBC Youth Ambassador of the Year.

**Justin Bohn (Jackson, New Jersey)** – The junior sports a 3.9 GPA and has taken numerous honors classes. He is captain of the bowling team and led Jackson Liberty High School to the state title the past two seasons. He volunteers as a youth bowling coach and has assisted with numerous tournaments, including handling social media and livestreaming events.

**Alexander Kobus (Crown Point, Indiana)** – He was the top-ranked senior at Boone Grove High School with a 4.18 GPA. The captain of his bowling team, he was instrumental in getting bowlers to volunteer their time with Special Olympics Bowling. He also has done numerous community projects through the Boy Scouts (he is an Eagle Scout) and the National Honor Society.

**Blake Martin (Oakdale, Minnesota)** – The junior has a 4.14 GPA and is a three-year member of the band, where he is first chair percussion for St. Croix Lutheran Academy. He was nominated to the National Youth Leadership Forum and attended the Academies by Harvard Student Agencies last summer. He has been captain of the bowling team the last two seasons and was a first-team all-conference selection each of the last three years.

**Takuma Walter (Memphis, Tennessee)** – He is an AP Scholar with Distinction and had a 4.6 weighted GPA. In his senior year, he was captain of the tennis and bowling teams at White Station High School and qualified for state singles in bowling. He was co-lead of the school community service team and on the Green Team. He is an Eagle Scout and fluent in Japanese.

Ausec and Kobus are making their second appearances on the team. Each was selected during their junior seasons last year.

In addition to her selection to the girls' team, Womeldorf was named captain of the 2019-2020 Dexter Bowling High School All-American Team and receives the Bud Clapsaddle Award. The award is named for the former Dexter Bowling vice president who oversaw selection of the first 12 teams, and Womeldorf receives an additional \$500 scholarship.

Visit [BOWL.com/HighSchool](http://BOWL.com/HighSchool) for more information on high school bowling, including the Dexter High School All-American Team and grant initiatives to assist high school programs.

### **2019-2020 DEXTER HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICAN TEAM**

#### **Name, Year, High School, Hometown**

##### **Girls Team**

Morgan Gitlitz, Senior, Colts Neck High School, Freehold, N.J.  
Victoria Lazo, Junior, Dobie High School, Houston  
Evan Smith, Senior, West Seattle High School, Seattle  
Ashlyn Okazaki, Senior, 'Iolani School, Mililani, Hawaii  
Kristin Womeldorf, Senior, Apollo-Ridge High School, Apollo, Pa.

##### **Boys Team**

Tanner Ausec, Senior, Rampart High School, Colorado Springs, Colo.  
Justin Bohn, Junior, Jackson Liberty High School, Jackson, N.J.  
Alexander Kobus, Senior, Boone Grove High School, Crown Point, Ind.  
Blake Martin, Junior, St. Croix Lutheran Academy, Oakdale, Minn.  
Takuma Walter, Senior, White Station High School, Memphis, Tenn.

### **GO BOWLING CELEBRATES NATIONAL BOWLING DAY ON AUG. 8, 2020**

*Bowling to be featured for fourth consecutive year on "FOX & Friends" national broadcast*

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The bowling industry will be celebrating National Bowling Day on Saturday, Aug. 8, and to commemorate the yearly celebration, the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America and its marketing arm, Strike Ten Entertainment, will launch a nationwide league bowling program called "Go Bowling America" to encourage consumers to come back to the lanes where centers have reopened and when they are ready to do so.

The "Go Bowling America" league program will provide bowlers of all age groups the

opportunity to bowl in a multi-week, non-competitive league and receive a new entry-level bowling ball for completing the league.

Go Bowling has secured confirmation from “FOX & Friends” that it plans to feature bowling during the show’s broadcast on Aug. 8. This year’s bowling segment will take place remotely, giving select bowling centers around the nation an opportunity to be featured during the live segment.

“The BPAA and Strike Ten are focused on helping the 3,400-plus member bowling centers during this incredibly tough time, and the exposure we receive from our partnership with FOX is a huge help and a great way to amplify our ‘Go Bowling America’ message,” said John Harbuck, President of Strike Ten Entertainment. “Our ‘Go Bowling America’ league program is just one of the many ways we’re helping our member bowling centers welcome back bowlers to the same safe, healthy and fun experience they’re accustomed to as our centers reopen nationwide.”

STE and BPAA are fully supporting the National Bowling Day initiative. Digital marketing support materials are being created for all member centers to assist in promoting National Bowling Day by keeping bowling top of mind where centers are not yet open and to drive business where centers are open. These National Bowling Day digital marketing assets can be accessed for free from the Social Media Content Bank on [STEMarketing.com](http://STEMarketing.com)

## **USBC PURCHASES BOWLERS JOURNAL INTERNATIONAL BRAND ASSETS**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Bowling Congress has purchased the rights to Bowlers Journal International magazine and the Bowlers Journal Championships tournament from Chicago-based Luby Publishing, Inc.

Bowlers Journal International magazine is the most iconic media brand in the sport, with a 107-year history of publication, while the Bowlers Journal tournament, contested alongside the USBC Open Championships, dates back to 1946.

“USBC is proud to bring on the Bowlers Journal International brand as a great addition to our association,” USBC President Melissa McDaniel said. “The USBC Promise is about celebrating the past and ensuring the future. By acquiring Bowlers Journal, USBC will be the custodian of the magazine’s rich history, while ensuring bowling’s stories continue to be showcased and chronicled for decades to come.”

The Luby family, which founded Luby Publishing, launched the first edition of Bowlers Journal in November 1913. Founder Dave Luby’s love of bowling inspired him to create the magazine in his spare time. The Luby family continued to publish Bowlers Journal through two world wars and the Great Depression.

Dave Luby, his son, Mort Luby Sr., and grandson, Mort Luby Jr., all are members of the USBC Hall of Fame. *Bowlers Journal International* is currently the longest-running monthly sports magazine in the nation.

In 1994, Mort Luby Jr. sold the company to two long-time employees, Keith Hamilton and Mike Panozzo.

"*Bowlers Journal International* is more than just a magazine or a business for Luby Publishing," Luby Publishing President Keith Hamilton said. "We are caretakers of a publication that is part of bowling's DNA. Our goal has always been to create the best future for *Bowlers Journal*, and we feel USBC is the perfect fit."

Under the agreement, USBC will take over operations of the magazine effective Sept. 1, 2020. Plans call for continuing *Bowlers Journal's* current products and services without disruption.

"We are thrilled for the opportunity to move forward with this wonderful brand as part of USBC, and we are pleased to announce that Gianmarc Manzione will continue as editor and Mike Panozzo as publisher," McDaniel said. "We have been celebrating our athletes at USBC for over a century, and a special aspect of this new merger is that *Bowlers Journal* has been, too. Joining together will allow us to elevate that exposure bigger and better than ever."

## **Worldwide Bowling Leader Bowlero Launches Innovative Mobile Esports Game Powered By Skillz**

*"Strike! By Bowlero" Connects Bowlers On and Off the Lanes*

**New York, NY, September 10, 2020** – [Bowlero Corp](#), the worldwide leader in bowling entertainment, and [Skillz](#), a leading mobile games platform for fair, fun, and meaningful competition, have launched *Strike! By Bowlero*, a first-of-its-kind mobile esports bowling game developed by [Touch Mechanics](#) using the Skillz platform.

*Strike! By Bowlero* extends the thrill of bowling from the lanes to your mobile device and is currently available for iOS and Android users through [bowlero.com/download-strike](http://bowlero.com/download-strike).

Powered by the Skillz mobile gaming platform, *Strike! By Bowlero* will connect the 40 million registered Skillz players around the world with Bowlero's 300 bowling centers and 28 million annual guests nationwide. Players will compete in live tournaments both inside Bowlero centers and at home in the *Strike! By Bowlero* mobile game for a chance to win real world prizes and rewards redeemable exclusively at Bowlero, AMF, and Bowlmor centers.

"Bowlero and Skillz are teaming up to create the future of bowling through a new mobile interactive game that ties the fun of a physical Bowlero experience into bite sized entertainment that can be enjoyed at home or on the go," said Andrew Paradise, CEO and founder of Skillz. "As the offline and online worlds are converging, new experiences like *Strike! By Bowlero* merge these worlds together."

Touch Mechanics, a UK-based studio that has created Skillz-powered games since 2014, optimized the new bowling game to merge the physical and digital worlds of Bowlero. Game designers studied Bowlero Corp locations to build realistic touches to the mobile game, including a blacklight bowling gameplay mode specifically made to mirror the ambience of the popular offering.

“Providing a digital experience to connect with guests off the lanes was Bowlero’s vision even before COVID-19 restrictions,” said Lev Ekster, Senior Vice President of Business Development at Bowlero Corp and COO of the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA). “With *Strike! By Bowlero*, we’re able to offer more value to our guests when they’re not physically at our centers, while new players are introduced to the Bowlero experience through Skillz-powered competitions that reward them with prizes.”

Through partnering with Skillz, Bowlero Corp has become the first hospitality company to brand a dedicated esports game. The new title creates a fun and interactive experience for bowlers, seamlessly bridging physical hospitality and digital gameplay.

“We really wanted the mobile experience to reflect the outstanding design that guests have come to expect when visiting a Bowlero center,” said Natalie McMahon, Creative Director at Bowlero Corp. “We’ve captured that unique energy, the social competition, and made it all accessible from your personal device. It’s exciting!”

## **INTERNATIONAL BOWLING MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME AND KEVIN DORNBERGER CREATE CHARITY AUCTION**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame (IBMHOF) has teamed up with IBMHOF board member Kevin Dornberger to create a multi-month online charity auction. Each month, a selection of unique bowling-related items from The Kevin Dornberger Collection will be released on the IBMHOF [auction website](#) for bid.

Kevin Dornberger spent 18 years in international bowling administration, but his outstanding collection is a result of a lifelong interest.

“I’ve been bowling in some form or other for more than 60 years, so collecting bowling memorabilia seemed like an appropriate extension of the sport,” said Dornberger.

Many of the items in the collection are one of a kind or highly unique. Items include rare original drawings of 20th century bowling cartoons, limited-edition bowling balls, décor, paintings, sculptures, sketches and many rare ABC gold and silver medals from the early 20th century.

“I’m a big fan of the ABC (now United States Bowling Congress) from its early days, and knowing the history of honor scores in the first 40 years of the ABC’s existence, I was drawn to the scarcity of the awards honoring them,” said Dornberger.

The retired World Bowling CEO hopes this auction series will encourage bowling fans to start collections of their own as well as put the IBMHOF’s mission on the map.

“I have great respect for the Hall of Fame and the work done by the Museum,” said Dornberger. “It seemed only natural to work with the Museum to give these special items new homes.”

The September, November and December auctions will release a variety of items, and the October sale will focus on the original drawings of popular cartoons that feature bowling, that Mr. Dornberger was so fond of collecting.

The auction schedule is as follows: Sept. 21 – Oct. 1; Oct. 5 – 15; Nov. 2 – 12; and Dec. 1 – 11.

*These items were transferred to the museum's temporary stewardship from the private collector for the purposes of fundraising and are not a part of the museum's collection. Thirty percent of the proceeds of this sale go towards the IBMHOF. To view the website, visit <https://www.ebay.com/usr/bowlingmuseumstore>.*

## Storm Youth Championships Returns To The Beach

BRIGHAM CITY, Utah - The Storm Youth Championships (SYC) invited athletes and their families to returned to the Coastal Carolinas the first weekend of October. The event was held in two bowling centers, Little River Lanes in Little River, South Carolina and Planet Fun in Shallotte, North Carolina. These bowling centers have hosted this event four years consecutively and their support of the SYC ensures our event run efficiently from start to finish.

"The SYC Coastal Classic is a favorite event for our SYC families to attend," Leanne Hulsenberg, Marketing Coordinator said. "We're grateful that families choose to support the events and work together to give these talented youth athletes the opportunity to compete. Though the event looked a little different than it has in past years, the staff at the bowling centers helped us create a safe environment where new friends were made, scholarship was awarded, champions were named, and family memories were created."

All SYC athletes competed in two rounds on two challenging lane conditions designed by KEGEL. Each round consisted of five games and the tournament is composed of five different divisions determined by gender and age (U18 Boys, U18 Girls, U15 Boys, U15 Girls, U12 Mixed Division). The top three bowlers in each round were presented a gold, silver, or bronze medal.

After both rounds were complete, each division was cut in half and those competitors who advanced returned to bowl five additional games on Sunday morning on a new pattern at Planet Fun.

After the third round of competition was complete, tournament champions in each division based on their total pinfall were awarded the SYC Trophy, a new champions banner, and a gold medal. In addition, the SYC awarded \$16,725.00 scholarship fund to the youth bowlers.

In the U12 division, Matteo Quintero, of Smyrna, TN, a member of the 2020 Storm Youth All-American Team, earned his third in a row title on the lanes at the Coastal Classic. Even through a mask, you can always see Matteo's smile. Though Matteo suffered a muscle strain on Saturday, he battled through the injury to claim the title on Sunday. He added a gold and silver medal to his collection in addition to the coveted SYC trophy and banner.

In the U15 girl's division, Kaitlyn Stull, of Raleigh, North Carolina, joined the elite club of SYC champions who in addition to claiming the title, earned a gold medal in every round. She averaged 206 to capture her second SYC title. In the U15 boy's division, Rylan Breese, of Wilmington, North Carolina, made his return to the lanes near the end of the summer after taking a break from competition. Rylan has always been a fierce competitor on the lanes, but his mom shared with us that she encouraged him to set makeable goals for himself as he returned. Rylan demolished the goal for the weekend, averaging 209 for the event to capture his third title.

Jillian Martin, a member of the Storm Youth All-American Team, is a familiar name in the youth bowling arena and continues to achieve new milestones as she continues to learn on the lanes. Her love for the game is evident with every shot she throws. Jillian, of Stow, Ohio, averaged 219 finishing 316 pins ahead of second place to claim her sixth title. In the U18 boy's division, a tight race came down to the final game of the tournament. Carter Street, of Dublin, Ohio, rolled a 246 in his final game of the third round to edge out Julian Salinas to capture his first SYC title.

In addition to the overall champions, the top three athletes in each division were presented a gold, silver, or bronze medal after each round.

Overall Medalists: U12 Mixed – Matteo Quintero (gold), Joseph De Guzman (silver), Ben Linares (bronze). U15 Boys– Rylan Breese (gold), Aidan Furukawa (silver), Bud Sicard (bronze). U15 Girls– Kaitlyn Stull (gold), Morgan Kline (silver), Haley Swindle (bronze). U18 Boys– Carter Street (gold), Julian Salinas (silver), James Bennett (bronze). U18 Girls– Jillian Martin (gold), Brianna Rogers (silver), Juliana Sams (bronze).

The Medalists on the KEGEL Planet Fun: U12 Mixed – Matteo Quintero (gold), Joseph De Guzman (silver), Ben Linares (bronze). U15 Boys– Aidan Furukawa (gold), Anthony Hornick (silver), Bud Sicard (bronze). U15 Girls– Kaitlyn Stull (gold), Haley Swindle (silver), Gianna Brandolino (bronze). U18 Boys– Brandon Bohn (gold), Julian Salinas (silver), Joshua Maslanich (bronze-tie) Spencer Robarge (bronze-tie). U18 Girls– Jillian Martin (gold), Lilu Smith (silver), Brianna Rogers (bronze).

The Medalists on the KEGEL Little River: U12 Mixed – Ben Linares (gold), Matteo Quintero (silver), Joseph De Guzman (bronze). U15 Boys– Lucas Ellis (gold), Rylan Breese (silver), Aidan Furukawa (bronze). U15 Girls– Kaitlyn Stull (gold), Kayla Starr (silver), Morgan Kline (bronze). U18 Boys– James Bennett (gold), Gilbert King (silver), Julian Salinas (bronze). U18 Girls– Jillian Martin (gold), Natalie Kent (silver), Brooklyn Gagnon (bronze).

The Medalists on FINAL: U12 Mixed – Jos Weems (gold), Cameron Morton (silver), Joseph De Guzman (bronze). U15 Boys– Rylan Breese (gold), Bud Sicard (silver), Micah Voorhis (bronze). U15 Girls– Kaitlyn Stull (gold), Haley Swindle (silver), Sydney Bohn (bronze). U18 Boys– Carter Street (gold), Blake Martin (silver), James Bennett

(bronze). U18 Girls– Jillian Martin (gold), Brianna Rogers (silver), Maribeth Baker (bronze).

Every athlete who entered the tournament received a Storm Omega Crux bowling ball.

Giving back is an important part of the SYC and athletes come together to raise funds all weekend long for Ballard vs. the Big “C” which supports continued research in cancer treatment, specifically in head, neck and throat cancer through the sport of bowling. BVBC also raises money for nutritional supplements and treatments for those going through the cancer journey. \$10 of every entry will go directly to BVBC to continue to fight the war against cancer. SYC athletes raised \$1,570 at the SYC Coastal Classic and have contributed \$9,670 to BVBC in 2020.

The owners of Logo Infusion, Ken and Kathy Keegan joined us at the beach to provide apparel for the SYC. Logo Infusion is the official jersey partner of the SYC and creates customized jerseys to help commemorate each of our events. They have also created the Dan Keegan Scholarship for youth athletes to earn scholarship to use towards their education throughout the year. They awarded two scholarships to SYC athletes based on their sportsmanship throughout the weekend. Lilu Smith and Spiros Schenk were chosen as the recipients and will each receive a \$250 scholarship.

We’re proud to partner with great companies to enhance the SYC experience at events including Storm, Roto Grip, Logo Infusion, Kegel, 3G Shoes, Ballard’s Bowling Academy and Bowlers Journal International. The event was livestreamed over the two days on the Storm Bowling Facebook Page and scores were uploaded live through the official scoring system of the Storm Youth Championships, BowlMetrix.

The final event of the 2020 SYC Tour will take place in Orlando on November 7-8. This event is sold-out with a waiting list. The 2021 SYC Tour Schedule will be announced in mid-November.

For final results of all rounds of competition and for more information on the SYC visit the Storm SYC page at [www.stormbowling.com/SYC](http://www.stormbowling.com/SYC).

## **USA BOWLING REGIONAL SCHEDULE FOR 2021 TO BEGIN IN JANUARY**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The journey for teams to advance to the USA Bowling National Championships in Indianapolis will begin in January 2021.

The 16-event regional schedule for 2021 will kick off in the Coastal South region at Aloma Bowl in Winter Park, Florida, on Jan. 9-10. Teams will include youth bowlers competing in 12-and-under (U12) and 15-and-under (U15) divisions for the opportunity to compete in the national championships.

The winners in each division at one- or two-day regional events earn spots at the USA Bowling National Championships, which is scheduled to take place in Indianapolis as part of the 2021 Junior Gold Championships. The tournament dates will be released at a later time.

The schedule of USA Bowling Regional events with dates, region, center and city:

- Jan. 9-10 – Coastal South, Aloma Bowl, Winter Park, Fla.
- Jan. 23 (U12) – Heartland, Pheasant Lanes, Bloomington, Ill.
- Jan. 24 (U15) – Heartland, Pheasant Lanes, Bloomington, Ill.
- Jan. 30 – Southwest, Suncoast Bowling Center, Las Vegas
- Feb. 14 – Upper Great Lakes, Concord Lanes, St. Paul, Minn.
- Feb. 21 – Mountain, King Pin Lanes, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- Feb. 28 – South Central, Sooner Bowling Center, Norman, Okla.
- March 14 – Upper Midwest, Bowlerama Lanes, Des Moines, Iowa
- March 20 – New England, Walnut Hill Bowl, Woonsocket, R.I.
- March 20 (U12) – Atlantic East, Murfreesboro Strike & Spare, Murfreesboro, Tenn.
- March 21 (U15) – Atlantic East, Murfreesboro Strike & Spare, Murfreesboro, Tenn.
- March 27-28 – South, Vestavia Bowl, Vestavia Hills, Ala.
- April 3-4 – Southeast, Buffaloe Lanes North, Raleigh, N.C.
- April 18 – Midwest, West Acres Bowling Center, Wichita, Kan.
- April 25 – Ohio Valley, Poelking Lanes South, Dayton, Ohio
- May 16 – Pacific, Paradise Lanes, Tacoma, Wash.
- May 22 (U12) – Northeast, Rab's Country Lanes, Staten Island, N.Y.
- May 23 (U15) – Northeast, Rab's Country Lanes, Staten Island, N.Y.
- June 5 – Lower Great Lakes, Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl, Lafayette, Ind.

Teams will bowl eight round-robin Baker matches to determine seeding for the double-elimination bracket. Bracket matches will be decided through a best-of-three Baker format, until a champion is determined in each division.

Single-day events will include both the seeding and match-play rounds. Two-day events will have the seeding round on the first day, and all teams will return on the second day for bracket play.

In addition, three regions (Heartland, Atlantic East, Northeast) will host the U12 and U15 divisions on separate days over the same weekend.

The format at each location may be adjusted based on state or local regulations.

With four-person teams being used at USA Bowling events, the competition features a unique Baker format. For each Baker game, the first two bowlers in the lineup each bowl three frames (1-5-9 and 2-6-10, respectively), while the other two team members bowl two frames each (3-7 and 4-8).

Team rosters can feature up to six players, giving each coach the opportunity to bring in substitutes during competition.

USA Bowling Regional tournaments started in 2013, building the foundation that would lead to the inaugural USA Bowling National Championships in 2016. The national event grew from the USA Bowling program, designed as a team-based youth program to introduce the sport to children.

USA Bowling Leagues share a team-based structure, similar to all youth sports, where young athletes receive instruction, have regular practices with a coach and then compete against other teams during an eight- to 12-week season.

USA Bowling is a product of the Youth Education Services (YES) Fund, a joint initiative of the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America and the United States Bowling Congress, supported by top bowling brands, including Bowling.com, Brunswick, Columbia 300, Ebonite, Hammer, QubicaAMF, Roto Grip, Storm and Track.

For more information on the USA Bowling program, visit [BOWL.com/USABowling](http://BOWL.com/USABowling).

## **BARBARA AND BILL CHRISMAN ELECTED TO USBC HALL OF FAME FOR 2021**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** - The United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame will have at least two new members when the 2021 class is inducted, and it will mark the first time a husband and wife will be enshrined in the same year.

The USBC Hall of Fame Committee recently elected Bill and Barbara Chrisman of Pleasant View, Utah, in the Meritorious Service category. They will be the seventh husband and wife overall to be inducted into the USBC Hall of Fame.

In addition to the Chrismans being elected, the USBC Hall of Fame Committee selected seven bowlers - five men and two women - for the Superior Performance ballot that will be distributed to a national panel of USBC Hall of Fame members, USBC Board members and veteran bowling writers.

Selected for the men's national ballot are Dave Ferraro of Kingston, New York; Wes Malott of Pflugerville, Texas; Randy Pedersen of Orlando, Florida; Mike Scroggins of Amarillo, Texas; and Mark Williams of Beaumont, Texas.

Named to the women's national ballot are Sandra Jo Shiery of Coldwater, Michigan, and Tammy Turner of West Palm Beach, Florida.

Over more than three decades, the Chrismans have used their positions and success as co-founders of Storm Products, Inc., one of bowling's premier manufacturers, to have

an immeasurable impact in the sport beyond just the production of balls, bags, shoes and accessories for Storm, Roto Grip and now 900 Global.

Together, the two have supported bowling, particularly women's bowling, through sponsorships of countless bowlers and bowling tournaments across the globe, including the USBC Senior Queens, National Golden Ladies Classic and the Professional Bowlers Association/Professional Women's Bowling Association Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles.

Storm Bowling also has sponsored numerous youth and other events, but supporting the tournaments for women has been a major part of Barbara's mission, as she always has been supportive of women's bowling as a competitor and a fan. She was the keynote speaker at the 2016 Singapore Women's International Coaching Symposium.

As a member of the USBC Board of Directors from 2005-2011, Barbara Chrisman served on the Financial Committee and Legal and Legislative Committee. She also helped establish the Diversity Committee.

Before the Storm brand came to be in 1991, along with the company's first bowling balls, Bill Chrisman's High Score Products was in its sixth year as a one-product company, producing U Clean/U Score Urethane Bowling Ball Cleaner.

Under his leadership, Storm has been a leading innovator, introducing such things as bowling balls with distinctive fragrances.

Individually, Bill Chrisman also has served the sport at the association level, spending time as a director on the Ogden (Utah) Bowling Association Board from 1981-1989. He was inducted into the association's hall of fame for superior performance in 1994 and was inducted into the Utah State USBC Hall of Fame in 2005 for meritorious service.

His efforts and determination earned him special recognition from USBC in 2014 - the Joyce Deitch Unity Award - given to individuals who have made important contributions to bowling as motivators, visionaries, leaders and innovators.

But, as much as bowling has benefitted from their individual dedication, the Chrismans likely will be remembered for their collective contributions and the role their company has played in the future of the sport.

As a team, the Chrismans have received numerous honors from the bowling industry, including the 2016 International Bowling Media Association Alberta E. Crowe Meritorious Service Award, 2014 Billiard and Bowling Institute of America's Industry Service Award in recognition of their contribution to the promotion of the sport, 2003 William Landgraf Memorial Award for Distinguished Service and the 2003 John Davis Award Memorial Award.

They also have made numerous charitable contributions, including donating to Susan G. Komen Bowl for the Cure, BPAA Hall of Fame Xtravaganza, International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame and Weber State University.

Along with the 2021 inductees, the six members of the 2020 USBC Hall of Fame Class also are awaiting their time in the spotlight.

The six bowlers were slated for induction in 2020, before COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the 2020 USBC Convention in Las Vegas, along with all supporting activities and events.

The 2020 class includes Marianne DiRupo of Succasunna, New Jersey, and Patrick Allen of Garfield, New Jersey, in the Superior Performance category, Patrick Healey Jr. (USBC Outstanding Performance), Bob Learn Jr. (Veterans) and Andrew Cain and Jim Zebehazy (both in Meritorious Service).

Complete details for both the 2020 and 2021 USBC Hall of Fame induction ceremonies will be forthcoming, based on recommendations and restrictions due to COVID-19.

Through 2019, there are 432 members of the USBC Hall of Fame - 223 in Superior Performance, 120 in Meritorious Service, 51 in Veterans, 22 in Pioneer and 16 in Outstanding USBC Performance.

The USBC Hall of Fame was created in 2005 by merging the former American Bowling Congress and Women's International Bowling Congress Halls of Fame.

Visit [BOWL.com/HallofFame](http://BOWL.com/HallofFame) for more information on the USBC Hall of Fame.

## **TRUE PREMIUM VODKA SIGNS MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENT TO BECOME OFFICIAL PARTNER OF BPAA**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Strike Ten Entertainment, the bowling industry’s marketing and sponsorship arm, has come to terms on a multi-year sponsorship agreement with TRUE Premium Vodka to become the official Vodka of the Bowling Proprietors’ Association of America.

TRUE currently is distributed in Florida, Louisiana, New York, New Jersey and Illinois, with plans to expand in 2021.

To grow the category, Strike Ten will work with TRUE Premium Vodka and BPAA members to showcase the product as a bespoke premium call brand in bowling centers. STE’s goal is to offer TRUE Premium Vodka to all its members and open distribution in other states.

“We’re extremely pleased to add TRUE Premium Vodka to our family of official partners,” said Jim Decker, President of the BPAA. “TRUE’s ownership team, headed up by Major League

Baseball Hall of Famer Mike Piazza, has developed a sophisticated premium call brand that delivers an elegant look and a smooth and clean taste at a competitive price point. This combination will be well received and satisfy our members' needs."

TRUE is distilled seven times by legendary supplier of spirits, Caffo, which originally is from Italy's region of Calabria. By using a Calabrese tradition passed on through generations, Distilleria Caffo has been awarded dozens of medals in worldwide competitions since its inception in the late 1800s.

"TRUE Premium Vodka is proud to celebrate our fellow bowlers," said TRUE CEO Vinny Cotona. "Especially our support of the heritage of bowling and the International Bowling Hall of Fame, which is something we are honored to be a part of."

## **USBC CANCELS 2021 TEAM USA TRIALS**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** - The United States Bowling Congress has canceled the 2021 USBC Team USA Trials due to ongoing public health concerns, restrictions and recommendations surrounding COVID-19.

Following schedule and location adjustments based on recommended best practices and social-distancing protocols, the event was slated to take place at two bowling centers in the Indianapolis area from Jan. 2-7, but the current COVID-19 metrics in the area, and many other states, suggest it is not reasonable to conduct the event at this time.

The current 2020 Team USA roster will move forward and represent Team USA in 2021 competitions.

"For months, our staff has been planning and creating protocols to operate the 2021 Team USA Trials," USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said. "Unfortunately, we are seeing infection rates and hospital capacity on a concerning trend. Additionally, nearly 100 athletes have withdrawn from the event and requested refunds.

"We are disappointed to deliver this news but believe the decision is in the best interest of the athletes and the broader community."

As the national governing body for the sport of bowling, as recognized by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, USBC looks to the USOPC for guidance. Earlier this month, the USOPC announced the closure of all its Colorado Springs training venues through Jan. 14, 2021, due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases and concern about the local health care system.

Additionally, several states currently require quarantine upon returning from travel to other states. These requirements could preclude some athletes from participating in the event.

"The outlook for the new year is still positive, and a vaccine appears to be on the horizon," Murphy said. "We have the plans in place to be back on the lanes and hosting our national championship events in 2021."

The next events on the schedule for USBC and the Professional Women's Bowling Association are the PWBA Kickoff Classic Series in Arlington from Jan. 18-26 and the U.S. Open, scheduled to take place in Green Bay, Wisconsin, from Feb. 21-28.

At this time, schedules and locations for both events, plus the start of the 2020-2021 USBC Collegiate season in January, are unchanged.

An additional update about 2021 USBC national events will be made on, or before, Jan. 15.

For more information about the 2021 tournament schedule, visit [BOWL.com/Tournaments](http://BOWL.com/Tournaments).

## TEAM USA HEAD COACH ROD ROSS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

ARLINGTON, Texas - Since 2002, red, white and blue have been dominant wardrobe colors for Team USA head coach Rod Ross.

After nearly two decades as part of the Junior Team USA and Team USA coaching staffs, Ross, 64, has decided to retire from the program.

During his time under the Team USA umbrella, Ross has excelled in many roles, while also serving as director for the International Training and Research Center, which officially opened its doors in 2010.

A United States Bowling Congress Gold coach since 2000, he was selected to be an assistant coach for Junior Team USA in 2002 under eventual USBC Hall of Famer Jeri Edwards. He took over as head coach in 2004 and held that role until 2017.

His responsibilities expanded in 2007 to include assisting with the adult version of Team USA, again under Edwards, and he succeeded her as head coach in 2010.

As part of the Team USA program, Ross has helped competitors from the United States to hundreds of medals in international competition, including more than 25 world championships at the adult level, seven gold medals at the Pan American Games and three QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup titles.

From 2010-2012, the Junior Team USA girls, Junior Team USA boys, Team USA women and Team USA men all were the reigning world champions under Ross' guidance.

"The players always say there's no feeling like standing on the medal podium and hearing our national anthem, but there's also a great sense of honor and pride for me when I get to witness this with them and our team," said Ross, a five-time United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee National Coach of the Year for Bowling (2004, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2019). "Even though I played the smallest role in helping make their dreams come true, it is an experience I will always treasure.

"My time with the Team USA program has been memorable and rewarding, and I'm certainly going to miss the excitement of preparing for, and competing against, the best in the world. More than that, I'm going to miss all of our incredible players, coaches, managers and staff. I look forward to following the players' and program's continued success."

Prior to taking the helm at the ITRC in Texas, Ross gained notoriety and recognition for developing cutting-edge computer and video training technology and for creating the first formal bowling training facility on the West Coast.

His work helped earn him the USOPC's Doc Counsilman Science Award for bowling in 2005, a first for the bowling industry.

The award recognizes a coach who uses science, medicine and/or technology in his or her instruction or has created innovative ways to integrate sport science into coaching.

At the time, Ross and his wife, Teresa, now a coaching specialist at USBC, owned and ran the pro shop and training center at Manteca Bowl in Manteca, California. His career in the industry spans more than 40 years.

Along with coaching some of the world's best bowlers within the Team USA program, Ross' knowledge and experience have made him a resource for bowlers, coaches and pro shop operators from across the globe.

"We are incredibly grateful to Rod for his dedication to Team USA and for all the contributions he has made to help the program be so successful over the last two decades," USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said.

For more information about Team USA, visit [BOWL.com/TeamUSA](http://BOWL.com/TeamUSA).

## **USBC TO HOLD VIRTUAL CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING IN 2021, STATE AND LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS GIVEN OPTION TO DO THE SAME**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** - The United States Bowling Congress Board of Directors has voted to conduct the 2021 USBC Convention and Annual Meeting virtually due to COVID-19 public health concerns and frequently changing restrictions.

Both were scheduled to be held at the Westin Lombard Yorktown Center in Lombard, Illinois, from April 26-29, 2021.

An update with more details about the schedule, procedures and technology for the virtual convention will be announced by the end of January 2021.

A resolution also has been passed by the USBC Board of Directors to allow state and local USBC associations to hold their annual meetings virtually in 2021. USBC's Associations team already is working on guidelines and materials to help associations with the process.

"We know our delegates and supporters are beginning to consider travel and meeting arrangements, so we wanted to make and announce this decision as early as possible," USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said. "Because there still is so much

uncertainty, along with varying travel and capacity restrictions from state to state, we feel it's the most reasonable option."

Also included in the 2021 Annual Meeting will be any outstanding official business from the 2020 event. A special resolution from the USBC Board canceled the 2020 Convention but postponed the Annual Meeting activities until 2021.

The resolution was enacted to ensure a proper governance process under USBC Bylaws during this time of uncertainty and allow for the continuity of governance to be properly maintained in accordance with applicable laws until delegates could meet in 2021.

Traditionally, the agenda for the USBC Convention also includes the USBC Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. After discussing some options with the 2020 and 2021 USBC Hall of Fame inductees, it was determined that honoring them in a formal in-person ceremony was the preferred choice, and that now will take place during the 2022 Convention.

All other USBC award winners and honorees scheduled to be recognized at the 2020 Convention, plus the 2021 award recipients, will be honored as part of a virtual celebration during the online event in 2021.

With many questions likely to arise due to the changes, BOWL.com and BOWL.com/Convention will be the places to look for updates and information as they become available.

USBC staff will continue working on additional communications and guidance for bowlers and association leaders, both for the national convention and for the state and local meetings.

## **2021 USBC SENIOR QUEENS, GOLDEN LADIES CLASSIC CANCELED**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** - The United States Bowling Congress and Boyd Gaming have announced the cancellation of the 2021 USBC Senior Queens and International Golden Ladies Classic due to local and state regulations in Nevada and ongoing public health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Senior Queens was scheduled to be held March 9-13 at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino, while the International Golden Ladies Classic was to be held March 15-18 at The Orleans Hotel and Casino. Both venues are located in Las Vegas.

The decision was made after Boyd Gaming reached out to past participants of the International Golden Ladies Classic to discuss some of the logistical issues with running the event in March under current local and state safety regulations, which would modify the tournament format and limit the field.

Past participants were asked whether they would prefer to compete in a modified version of the event in March, postpone the tournament until 2022 or consider competing in a different event for senior female bowlers held later in 2021.

With nearly 70 percent of the respondents preferring to cancel the 2021 Golden Ladies Classic, Boyd Gaming has decided to cancel the 2021 tournament and will return to conducting the event in 2022.

Many of the bowlers who travel to the International Golden Ladies Classic also use the trip to compete at the Senior Queens. The premier events for female bowlers age 50 and over have been held consecutively in the same host city since 2018.

"After several discussions with our partners at Boyd Gaming, and reviewing the responses from the competitors, we feel the right decision at the moment is to cancel the 2021 Senior Queens," USBC Executive Director Chad Murphy said. "We want every USBC member, whether it's in a league setting at home or at a national tournament, to feel safe and come back to the lanes when they're ready, and we'll be ready to hold this great event in 2022."

Registration for the 2021 Senior Queens opened on Nov. 11, and all bowlers who registered will be directly contacted by USBC concerning their entry fees.

For more information on USBC Senior Queens, visit [BOWL.com/SeniorQueens](http://BOWL.com/SeniorQueens).

## **USBC COLLEGIATE TO EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – The United States Bowling Congress will grant an additional year of eligibility to student-athletes competing during the 2020-2021 USBC Collegiate season.

The decision is consistent with announcements from other collegiate athletic organizations and was made in conjunction with the USBC Collegiate Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives from the NCAA, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association and National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association.

The 2020-2021 season originally was postponed in July due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is scheduled to begin in January 2021 as a second-semester sport.

"After reviewing the decisions made by other organizations and discussing options with the USBC Collegiate Advisory Committee, we agreed to grant an additional year of eligibility to student-athletes participating in the upcoming season," International Bowling Campus Youth Development Managing Director Gary Brown said. "With things changing daily across the country, we feel this decision provides the flexibility for the best possible student-athlete experience."

The 2020-2021 season will begin Jan. 1, with the regular season concluding March 28. The sectional assignments for the 2021 Intercollegiate Team Championships will be announced March 31.

The sectional qualifiers will take place April 16-18 at four locations – Stratford, New Jersey; Smyrna, Tennessee; Addison, Illinois; and Dallas.

The 2021 Intercollegiate Team and Singles Championships will be held May 2-8. The host city and venue for the ITC and ISC have not been finalized.

For more information on USBC Collegiate, visit [BOWL.com/Collegiate](https://www.usbc.com/collegiate).

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