

**United States Bowling Congress (USBC)  
Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA Bylaws**

**Article I  
Name**

The association is chartered by the United States Bowling Congress. The name of the organization is the: **Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA.**

**Article II  
Nonprofit Corporation and Charter**

**Section A. Nonprofit Corporation**

The association is organized as a nonprofit corporation and operates consistent with the requirements of an organization classified as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC).

**Section B. Charter**

The association shall be chartered by USBC and subject to its authority. To maintain its charter, the association must:

1. Provide services for Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA.
2. Adopt bylaws approved by USBC.
3. Not enact any bylaws or rules inconsistent with *USBC's Bylaws*.
4. Adhere to stated requirements as set forth in the *USBC Bylaws* and *USBC Association Policy Manual*.

**Section C. Charter Dissolution**

Upon termination of its charter, the USBC association shall transfer all of its assets remaining after payment of its lawful obligations to the organization serving the centers previously under their jurisdiction. If, at the time of termination, the association does not have an active USBC certified center, the assets will be transferred to the state association. The receiving association must be exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

If the organization fails to transfer its assets within 30 days, USBC shall be entitled to take whatever action it deems appropriate to ensure such transfer.

These requirements are applicable to all associations whose charter has been revoked as well as all current and future associations.

**Article III  
Purpose**

The purposes of the association as stated in the Articles of Incorporation, include, but are not limited to:

1. Providing equal opportunity for all in the sport of bowling without regard to race, religion, age, disability, or national origin.
2. Promoting the game of American Tenpins.
3. Conducting and supporting bowling competition.
4. Engaging in any other activities permitted by an organization classified as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRC.

**Article IV  
Membership and Dues**

Membership is composed of individuals who pay dues to the association and is in effect from August 1 through July 31.

Each individual shall pay national, state (where applicable) and local dues, except as provided in Rule 100e, Traveling League and 100I, Mail-o-Graphic League.

The Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA members, by two-thirds vote, determine and adopt local adult dues, if any. The annual adult standard membership dues are as follows:

Local	<b>\$9.00 (Cannot exceed \$10.)</b>
State	<b>\$1.00 (Cannot exceed \$1.)</b>
USBC adult standard membership:	\$10.

The Board may waive all or part of local dues for:

1. Members of other USBC associations having a reciprocal agreement with the association.
2. Other groups, such as seniors, etc., as determined by the Board.

The association cannot charge additional non-dues assessments.

**Article V  
Board of Directors - Management**

**Section A. Board Composition, Authority and Duties**

The management and governance of the association is vested in the Board of Directors that includes the Officer and Director positions. The Board and the Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA members determine the number of positions on the Board of Directors and their term. **The total number of board members is 15, with 12 total number of directors.**

The Board shall not engage in any acts constituting a conflict of interest. The Board's duties include but are not limited to:

1. Enforcing the bylaws.
2. Complying with the *USBC Association Policy Manual*.
3. Conducting championship level competition for its membership constituency Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA and complying with state and local laws in their area.
4. Implementing USBC programs as requested.
5. Selecting/appointing the Association Manager.
6. Approving use of membership records.
7. Re-rating the league average of an association member when there is evidence the bowler's average does not represent the bowler's true ability.
8. Conducting suspension and reinstatement hearings if requested by USBC Headquarters.

## Section B. Eligibility

A candidate for the Board (elected or appointed) must be:

1. A USBC member in good standing of the Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA at the time of election and throughout their term.
  - a. Elected or appointed without regard to race, color, religion, disability, national origin, or age, other than the minimum age of 14, unless state laws mandate a specific age, and be reasonably representative of the membership.
  - b. Any member of the Board authorized to sign contracts or acting as a signatory on association accounts must be a minimum age of 18.
  - c. A maximum of three bowling center proprietors may serve on the Board at one time. A proprietor is an individual who is the owner, partner, or corporate officer of a bowling center or group of bowling centers. Excluded from the definition of proprietor is an individual who owns 25% or less of the equity shares, or who is inactive in the management of the bowling center and remains so during a term as an officer or director.

## Section C. Election of Directors

**Directors are elected by plurality vote<sup>1</sup> of the Board and the Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA membership, present and voting from:**

1. A slate.
2. Nominations from the floor.

Qualifications must be submitted in a format specified by the Board.

Voting will be by ballot if there is more than one nominee for each position.

## Section D. Term

**The term for directors is 2 years.** The number of years in a term, the number of terms allowed and a stagger system are determined by the Board and the Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA membership.

### ELECTION SYSTEM

YEAR 1	YEAR 2
President	Vice President
6 Directors	Sergeant-at-Arms
	6 Directors

## Section E. Resignation, Removal, and Vacancies

1. **Resignation.** A Board member may resign from the Board of Directors by providing written notice of resignation to the president or, in the case of the president, to the Board.
2. **Removal for Ineligibility.** A Board member who is no longer eligible to serve on the Board may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Board when a quorum is present.
3. **Removal for Cause.** When a Board member is accused, in writing, of failure to properly perform the duties of their office or otherwise engaging in improper or unfair activities or conduct, the Board may conduct a meeting following the Removal Procedures in the Suspension and Reinstatement Chapter of the *USBC Association Manual*. An appeal may be filed with USBC Headquarters within 15 days of the removal. Two-thirds written consent of the full Board is required to seek re-election and/or re-appointment to the Board.
4. **Vacancies.** Vacancies in positions on the Board are filled for the un-expired portion of each term as follows:
  - a. The president, with Board approval, shall fill vacancies in director positions.
  - b. The Board fills vacancies in officer positions.

## Article VI Officers

### Section A. President, Vice President and Sergeant-At-Arms

The officers of this association shall include a President, Vice President and Sergeant-At-Arms.

### Section B. Election

**Officers are elected by a majority<sup>1</sup> vote of the Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA members, officers and directors, present and voting from:**

- a. **A slate.**
- b. **Nominations from the floor.**

Qualifications must be submitted in a format specified by the Board.

Voting will be by ballot if there is more than one nominee for each position.

### Section C. Term

**The term for elected officers is 2 years.**

The number of years in a term, the number of terms allowed and a stagger system are determined by the Board and the Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA membership.

### Section D. Authority and Duties

1. **President**
  - a. Presides at all meetings.
  - b. Acts as spokesperson for the association.
  - c. Appoints committees with Board approval.

**Note:** Committees should be composed of both Board members and non-Board members. (See Committees in the *USBC Association Policy Manual* for additional information.)

---

<sup>1</sup> A plurality vote is the largest number of votes cast for a given candidate. The candidate(s) receiving the most votes is (are) elected.

2. **Vice President**
  - a. Presides at all meetings when the president is absent.
  - b. Performs other duties as prescribed by the Board or requested by the president.
3. **Sergeant-At-Arms**
  - a. Performs duties as required by the Board.
4. **Association Manager**
  - a. Selected/appointed by and accountable to the Board.
  - b. Acts as the ex officio non-voting secretary/treasurer of the Board or such other officer designation as required by law and determined by the Board.
  - c. Responsible for other duties as prescribed by the Board and in the *USBC Association Policy Manual*.

## Article VII Meetings

### Section A. Annual Meeting

An Annual Meeting of the Board and the Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA membership shall be held at a time and place approved by the Board of Directors. (See Article IX, Section D for the time frame for election of delegates and alternates to the USBC meeting.)

1. **Attendance**  
Attendance is open to all members.
2. **Voice and Vote**  
Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA membership and voting officers and directors of this association, at least 14 years of age, unless state laws mandate a specific age, have voice and vote. Members not meeting the above stated criteria may attend with voice only. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.
3. **Responsibilities**  
Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA members shall:
  - a. Adopt bylaws, including local adult dues amount, up to the established maximum.
  - b. Elect officers and directors to the Board.
  - c. Elect delegates and alternates for the USBC and state annual meetings.
4. **Meeting Notice**  
Written notice of the meeting shall be forwarded to the Board and league secretaries, which should be at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting.
5. **Special Meetings**  
Special membership meetings may be called by the president or upon written request of at least three Board members or at least twenty-five members of the Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA association.
6. **Quorum**  
**12 (twelve) Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA members constitute a quorum.** The Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA members and Board determine the number. (See Meetings in the *USBC Association Policy Manual*.)
7. **Action**  
A majority vote of those members, officers and directors present and voting, at a properly noticed meeting, when a quorum has been established, is required to take action, unless otherwise provided by law or these bylaws. Election of officers requires a majority<sup>1</sup> vote. Election of directors requires a plurality<sup>2</sup> vote. Election of delegates and alternates requires a plurality<sup>2</sup> vote. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.

### Section B. Board Meeting

The Board shall meet, at a minimum, as often as required by state law. Special meetings may be held upon the request of any Board member if a majority of the Board approves.

1. **Notice.** Written notice for all regular and special meetings shall be forwarded to the Board, which should be at least 15 days prior to the meeting.
2. **Quorum. 5 (five) Board members constitute a quorum.** The Board and Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA members determine the number. (See Meetings in the *USBC Association Policy Manual*.)
3. **Action.** A majority vote of the officers and directors, present and voting, at a properly noticed meeting, when a quorum has been established, is required to take action, unless otherwise provided by law or these bylaws. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.
4. **Action(s) Without a Meeting.** Actions that are deemed necessary to conduct business/operations of the association may be taken outside of a Board meeting by use of mail, e-mail or teleconferencing. This type of action must be permissible by state law and approved by the membership and the Board. The procedures found in the Association Policy Manual, Chapter Eight, Section D, Item 4 must be followed.

**The Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA association does allow the Board to vote via mail, e-mail, or teleconference.**

### Section C. Parliamentary Procedure

The most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, governs all meetings.

## Article VIII Committees

### Section A. Standing Committees

The association shall have a Finance Committee. The committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring the association's financial matters.

### Section B. Other Committees

The president may establish other committees, with Board approval.

**Article IX  
Delegates, Alternates**

**Section A. USBC Annual Meeting**

Delegates and alternates to the USBC Annual Meeting are elected by plurality vote<sup>2</sup> by those members and officers and directors present and voting. (See Article VI, Section A of the national bylaws for representation.)

**Note:** The definition of a delegate is an individual, 18 years of age or older, who holds USBC membership.

**Section B. State Annual Meeting**

Delegates and alternates to the Ohio USBC WBA annual meeting are elected by plurality vote<sup>2</sup> by those members, officers and directors present and voting.

**Section C. Eligibility**

1. **USBC Annual Meeting.** Delegates and Alternates must be:
  - a. Elected by the Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA members, officers and directors.
  - b. At least 18 years of age.
  - c. A USBC member in good standing of the association at the time of election and throughout their term.
2. **State Annual Meeting.** Nominees must be:
  - a. Elected by the Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA members, officers and directors.
  - b. At least 14 years of age.
  - c. A USBC member in good standing of the association at the time of election and throughout their term.

If a member is elected to represent more than one association to attend the same meeting, the first election shall stand and any succeeding election shall be declared null and void.

A local association is not eligible to send delegates if it is declared delinquent or USBC has revoked its charter.

**Note:** An association that has not processed dues for the current season shall be considered delinquent.

**Section D. Election**

Delegates and alternates serve for one year, beginning August 1, and are elected by:

1. A slate.
2. Nominations from the floor.  
Qualifications must be submitted in a format specified by the Board.
3. Plurality vote<sup>2</sup>. The election shall be by ballot, except that a voice vote may be taken when the number of candidates does not exceed the number of positions to be filled.
4. Alternates shall serve in order of their election.

The election is to be held in compliance with the USBC or Ohio USBC WBA Annual Meeting requirements.

**Section E. Vacancies**

Vacancies are filled for the un-expired portion of each term as follows:

1. If elected by the members, vacancies are filled by the alternates in the order in which they were elected.
2. If a vacancy still exists, the president fills the vacant position by appointment.

The appointee must also meet the same eligibility requirements as elected positions.

**Article X  
Amendments**

**Section A. Procedure**

Any member of the Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA association may submit proposed amendments to these bylaws. The Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA bylaws may be amended at any membership meeting, by a two-thirds vote of the officers and directors and the Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA membership present and voting.

The amendment must be:

1. Submitted in writing to the Association Manager or president.
2. **Submitted at least 45 days** prior to the meeting when the association is considering the proposal. (See Section B, Change in Dues.) The date or number of days is to be set by the Board and the Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA members.

**Section B. Change in Dues**

Forward a notice at least 15 days prior to the meeting at which the proposed change is considered to the Board and Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA league secretaries.

The notice must:

1. Be in writing.
2. Specify the amount of the change.
3. Specify the reason for the change.

Notification of any adopted change in dues, and the reason for the change, will be forwarded, in writing to each Gr. Cincinnati USBC WBA league secretary.

**Section C. Effective Date**

All amendments are effective August 1, following adoption, unless otherwise specified when adopted.

**Article XI  
Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of this association is August 1 through July 31.

**Article XII  
Indemnification**

Directors, officers, and other authorized volunteers, employees or agents shall be indemnified against claims for personal and individual liability arising in connection with their positions or service on behalf of the association to the full extent permitted by law.

REVISED: July 10, 2013