

United States Bowling Congress (USBC) Greater Grand Rapids Local Association Bylaws

Article I Name

The name of the organization is the Greater Grand Rapids USBC Association, chartered by the United States Bowling Congress.

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 men, women and youth.
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. Association Dissolution

Upon dissolution of this organization, all of its assets remaining after payment of its lawful obligations shall be distributed in accordance with the requirements of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations promulgated hereunder.

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, gender, 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 in effect from August 1 through July 31 and is composed of:

1. **Adults** who have paid the appropriate USBC, state (if applicable) and local association dues; and
2. **Youth** who have paid the appropriate USBC and state dues and local processing fee in the association's jurisdiction.

An individual joining a summer league after March 15 shall pay the dues/local processing fee that are known to be, or become, effective for the next current season. On payment of the dues/processing fee, the individual shall become a member for the balance of the current season and the next season.

Each individual shall pay annual USBC membership dues, local dues (adult) or local processing fee (youth) and state association dues, except as provided in Rule 100e, Traveling Leagues and 100l, Mail-O-Graphic Leagues.

The adult members, and all officers and directors, by two-thirds vote, determine and adopt local adult dues, if any. The annual adult standard membership dues are as follows:

<i>Local</i>	<u>\$7.00.</u> (Cannot exceed \$10.)
<i>State WBA</i>	<u>\$1.00.</u> (Cannot exceed \$1.)
<i>State BA</i>	<u>\$1.00.</u> (Cannot exceed \$1.)
<i>USBC</i>	<u>\$10.00.</u>

The board, by two-thirds vote, determines and adopts local youth dues, if any, based on the recommendation of the Youth Committee. The annual youth membership dues are as follows:

<i>Local</i>	<u>\$2.00.</u> (Cannot exceed \$4.00.)
<i>State</i>	<u>\$.50.</u> (Cannot exceed \$.50.)
<i>USBC</i>	<u>\$14.50.</u>

The board may waive all or part of local adult dues/youth processing fee 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 members and Youth Representatives determine the number of positions on the Board of Directors and their term. The total number of board members is 20, with 18 total number of directors. At least 20% of the total number of Board members will be elected by the Youth Representatives and officers and directors who hold youth membership. The number of Board members elected by the Youth Representatives and officers and directors who hold youth membership is 4.

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 (men, women and youth) and complying with state and local laws in their area.
4. Implementing USBC programs as requested.
5. Selecting/appointing and evaluating the performance of 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. (See the Suspension and Reinstatement Chapter for re-rate, suspension, reinstatement and appeal procedures.)

Section B. Eligibility

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

1. A USBC member in good standing of the association at the time of election and throughout their term.
2. Elected or appointed without regard to race, color, religion, gender, 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.
 - a. Any member of the board authorized to sign contracts or acting as a signatory on association accounts must be a minimum age of 18.
 - b. At least 20% of the Board must be elected by the Youth Representatives and officers and directors who hold youth membership.
 - 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.
 - d. Candidates to be eligible for nomination as an officer shall have served at least three years as a member of the GGRBA or GGRWBA board of directors within the last six years.

Additional eligibility requirements, if any, will be developed by the Nominating Committee to be approved by the membership.

Section C. Election of Directors

Directors are elected by plurality vote.**

Directors whose positions are subject to election by the adult members are elected by plurality vote of adult members, and all officers and directors, present and voting, from:

1. A slate provided by the Nominating Committee.
2. Nominations from the floor. Qualifications must be submitted to the Nominating Committee at least 24 hours prior to the opening of the annual meeting. Qualifications must be submitted on the approved candidate nomination form.

At least 20% of the board is elected by the Youth Representatives and those officers and directors who hold youth membership.

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

**If a majority vote is not reached on the first ballot, the candidate receiving the lowest vote total is dropped and balloting continues until a candidate receives a majority vote.*

***A plurality vote is the largest number of votes cast for a given candidate. The candidate(s) receiving the most votes is (are) elected.*

Section D. Term

The term for directors is 3 years. The members and Youth Representatives determine the number of years in a term and the number of terms allowed. For three-year terms, the association shall establish a stagger system so that all officers and directors are not elected at the same time. The stagger system adopted by the association is as follows:

1. President and Directors #1 - #5 (2006-2009) and thereafter every three years.
2. Vice President and Directors #6 - #10 (2006-2008) and thereafter every three years.
3. Directors #11 - #14 (2006-2007) and thereafter every three years.

Each group to be elected as their term expires.

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. (A Board member's position, that is selected/elected by the Youth Committee, is automatically declared vacant when the individual's term on the Youth Committee expires.)
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 hearing following the Removal Procedures in the Suspension and Reinstatement Chapter. 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 reappointment to the board.
4. **Vacancies.** Vacancies in positions on the board are filled for the un-expired portion of each term as follows:
 - a. If elected by the members, director vacancies are filled by the president, subject to approval by the board.
 - b. Director vacancies elected by the Youth Representatives and officers and directors who hold youth membership are filled by the Youth Committee.
 - c. The Board fills vacancies in officer positions.

Article VI Officers

Section A. President and Vice President

The officers of this association shall include a president and vice president.

Section B. Election

The members and Youth Representatives determine the election process.

1. Officers are elected by a majority vote* of the adult members, youth representatives and officers and directors, present and voting from:
 - a. A slate provided by the Nominating Committee.
 - b. Nominations from the floor. Qualifications must be submitted to the Nominating Committee at least 24 hours prior to the opening of the annual meeting. Qualifications must be submitted on the approved candidate nomination form.

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

**If a majority vote is not reached on the first ballot, the candidate receiving the lowest vote total is dropped and balloting continues until a candidate receives a majority vote.*

Section C. Term

The term for elected officers is 3 years, not to exceed three years in a term. The members and Youth Representatives determine the number of years in a term and the number of terms allowed. (See the *USBC Association Leader's Handbook* for suggested term limits and stagger system.)

Section D. Authority and Duties

1. President

- a. Presides at all meetings.
- b. Acts as spokesperson for the association.
- c. Appoints committees, except Youth, with Board approval.

Note: Committees should be composed of both Board members and non-Board members. (See Committees in the <i>USBC Association Policy Manual</i> for more information.)

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. 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 association members/Youth Representatives 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 Annual Meeting.)

1. Attendance

Attendance is open to all members.

2. Youth Representatives

Youth Representatives consist of the following:

- a. Youth members, at least 14 years of age.
- b. One adult representative from each certified youth league. (A league is not eligible for representation if it has not submitted a league application.)
- c. One center representative from each center having at least one certified youth league.

3. Voice and Vote

Voting officers, directors, and adult members/Youth Representatives, at least 14 years of age, unless state laws mandate a specific age, have voice and vote. Members not meeting the above criteria may attend with voice only. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.

4. Responsibilities

- a. All adult members, Youth Representatives, officers and directors shall elect delegates and alternates for the USBC Annual Meeting.
- b. Adult members and all officers and directors shall:
 - 1) Adopt bylaws, with the exception of the youth processing fee and Youth Committee eligibility requirements.
 - 2) Adopt local adult dues, up to the established maximum.
 - 3) Elect up to 80% of the total number of members of the Board.
 - 4) Elect delegates and alternates representing adult membership for the state annual meetings.
- c. Youth Representatives and those officers and directors who hold youth membership shall:
 - 1) Adopt bylaws, with the exception of adult dues and youth processing fee.
 - 2) Adopt Youth Committee eligibility requirements.
 - 3) Elect the Youth Committee.
 - 4) Elect Youth Delegates and alternates to the state annual meeting.
 - 5) Elect at least 20% of the total number of members of the Board.

5. Meeting Notice

Written notice of the meeting shall be forwarded to the Board, Youth Representatives (league and center only) and league secretaries, which should be at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting.

6. 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 association.

7. Quorum

- a. 30 Members constitute a quorum. The members and Youth Representatives determine the number.

- b. 7 Youth Representatives constitute a quorum for youth related elections and activities. The members and Youth Representatives determine the number.

8. Action

A majority vote of those members/Youth Representatives 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 vote. Election of directors requires a majority vote, unless plurality vote has been adopted in accordance with these bylaws. Election of delegates, Youth delegates and alternates requires a plurality vote. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.

Section B. Board Meeting

The board shall meet at least quarterly. Special meetings may be held upon 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.** 11 board members constitute a quorum. (The members/Youth Representatives determine the number.)
3. **Action.** A majority vote of those 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 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/Youth Representatives and the Board. The procedures found in the *USBC Association Policy Manual*, Chapter Eight, Section D, Item 4 must be followed.

The association does allow the board to vote via mail, e-mail, or teleconference.

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 the following Standard Committees: Finance and Youth.

1. **Finance Committee.** The committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring the annual budget and other financial matters.
2. **Youth Committee.** The Youth Committee is elected by plurality vote of the Youth Representatives and officers and directors who hold youth membership. Youth Committee members whose positions are subject to election by the Youth Representatives are elected by a _____ vote of those Youth Representatives, present and voting from:
 - a. A slate provided by the Youth Committee.
 - b. Nominations from the floor.

Qualifications must be submitted to the Youth Committee in a format specified by the committee.

The Youth Committee is responsible for:

- a. Developing eligibility requirements for Board members representing the youth, to be approved by the members and Youth Representatives.
- b. Developing eligibility requirements for the Youth Committee, subject to approval of the Youth Representatives.
- c. Monitoring, promoting, reviewing and recommending youth programs conducted by the association.

Section B. Other Committees

The president may establish other committees, with board approval.

Article IX Delegates, Youth Representatives and Alternates

Section A. USBC Annual Meeting

Delegates and alternates are elected by plurality vote* of those adult members, youth representatives 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

1. Delegates and alternates representing adults are elected by plurality vote* of those adult members present and voting.
2. Youth Delegates and alternates are elected by plurality vote* of those local Youth Representatives present and voting.

**A plurality vote is the largest number of votes cast for a given candidate. The candidate(s) receiving the most votes is(are) elected.*

Section C. Eligibility

1. **USBC Annual Meeting.** Delegates and Alternates must be:
 - a. Elected by the Board, adult members and Youth Representatives.
 - 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.
 - d. Must be a member of the current association Board of directors.
2. **State Annual Meeting.** Nominees must be:
 - a. Elected by adult members or Youth Representatives.
 - 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.
 - d. Must be a member of the current association Board of directors.

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/Youth 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

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

1. A slate provided by the Nominating Committee.
2. Nominations from the floor. Qualifications must be submitted to the Nominating Committee 24 hours prior to the opening of the annual meeting. Qualifications must be submitted on the approved candidate nomination form.
3. Plurality vote*. 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 the order of their election.

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

**A plurality vote is the largest number of votes cast for a given candidate. The candidate receiving the most votes is(are) elected.*

Section E. Vacancies

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

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

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

Article X Amendments

Section A. Procedure

Any member of the association may submit proposed amendments to these bylaws. The local association bylaws may be amended at any membership meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members/Youth Representatives present and voting. The amendment must be:

1. Submitted in writing to the Association Manager or president.

2. Submitted at least 120 days prior to the membership meeting when the association is considering the proposal. (The date or number of days to be set by the members/Youth Representatives. See Section B, Change in Dues.)

Section B. Change in Dues

1. **Adult Dues.** Forward a notice to each league secretary and the Board at least 15 days prior to the meeting at which the proposed change is considered. The notice must:
 - a. Be in writing.
 - b. Specify the amount of the change.
 - c. Specify the reason for the change.
2. **Youth Dues.** Changes in dues are adopted by the board, based on recommendations of the Youth Committee. Forward a notice to the Youth Committee, Youth Representatives (league and center only) and the board at least 15 days prior to the meeting at which the proposed change is considered. The notice must:
 - a. Be in writing.
 - b. Specify the amount of the change.
 - c. 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:

- a. Adult dues – each league secretary.
- b. Youth dues – Youth Representatives (league and center only).

Section C. Effective Date

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

Article XI Fiscal Year

The fiscal year 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 2009
No revisions July 2010
Revised July 2011