

Under the jurisdiction of the United States Bowling Congress

Article I--Name

The name of the organization is the Greater Omaha Area USBC, 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 501C(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 service for men, women and youth.
2. Adopt bylaws approved by USBC
3. Not enact any bylaws or rules inconsistent with USBC bylaws.
4. Adhere to stated requirements as set forth in the USBC Bylaws and USBC Association Policy Manual.
5. Not use any part of the net earnings of the organization for the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof.
6. Not have a substantial part of the activities of the organization for carrying on a propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
7. Not carry on any other purposes not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501c3 of the IRC, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

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©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

If the named recipients are unwilling to accept the assets, are no longer qualified as 501c3 organizations, or are no longer in existence, then the assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501c3 code, or shall be distributed to the federal government or to a state or local government for public purpose.

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.

The purpose of the association as stated in the Articles of Incorporation, include, but are not limited to: The purposes of the association shall be to operate exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, including fostering national or international amateur sports, competition within the meaning of Section 501c3 of the IRC, or corresponding section of any future federal tax docs and to:

1. Providing equal opportunity for all in the sport of bowling without regard to race, religion, age, gender, sex, sexual orientation, 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© (3) of the (ARC), 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 standard youth dues and bowl in USBC leagues in the association's jurisdiction, and local processing fee in the association's jurisdiction.

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 100e3, Traveling League and 100e3 1, Mail-O-Graph League.

The members and all officers and directors, by two-thirds vote, determine and adopt local adult dues and youth processing/awards fees if any. The board, adult members and youth representatives, by two-thirds vote, determine and adopt adult dues, if any.

The annual adult standard membership dues are as follows:

Local	\$ 9.00
State	\$ 2.00
USBC	\$15.00
Total	\$26.00

The annual youth standard membership dues are as follows:

Local	\$ 6.00 (processing fee and awards program to the processing agency)
USBC	4.00
Total	\$10.00

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. Membership is not transferrable.

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, adult members and Youth Representatives determine the number of positions on the Board of Directors and their term and term limits if any. The total number of Board members is 18, with 16 directors, the president and one vice-president.

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 adult championship level competition for its membership constituency (men, women and youth) and complying with state and local laws in their area. The dates, closing date, fees and expense allowance shall be set by the board. After all tournament expenses have been paid, any remaining expense money is to be used at the discretion of the tournament manager/director.
4. Implementing USBC program 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. (See Suspension/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. 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.
NEW: A candidate for the board (elected or appointed) must be:
 - a. Individuals eighteen (18) years of age and over must be approved through the Registered Volunteer Program prior to working with youth, or within 45 days after taking office, whichever occurs first. RVP Program consists of: 1) USBC Membership 2) Completed SafeSport training 3) Approved background check through NCSI for USBC 4) Adhere to the policies and codes found in the RVP Handbook

Additional eligibility requirements, if any, are to be approved by the members and the board. A candidate, to be elected or appointed an officer of the board, must have served as a director

on the board for two years, or held the position of association manager in the association for a period of two years.

Section C. Election of Directors

Directors are elected by majority vote* unless plurality vote ** is adopted, by the members and board members.

1. A slate

2. Nominations from the floor. A current GOABA BOD application indicating the position being applied for and listing applicant's qualifications,** *must be submitted up to 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting where elections will be held.*

Voting will be by those individuals present and voting and 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.

Directors whose positions are subject to election are elected by members in attendance and all officers and directors.

Qualifications must be submitted using association application for a board position.

Section D. Term

The term for directors is 2 years. *The members determine the number of years in a term and the number of terms allowed. For two years terms the members establish a stagger system. On odd years the Vice President and 8 Directors will be elected, the President and 8 directors on the even years.*

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. An appeal may be filed with USBC with 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. Removal for RVP Non-Compliance. When a board member is determined to not be in compliance with the USBC's RVP policies, the member will be immediately declared ineligible and removed from the board with the position being declared vacant. No board action is required to remove the member from the board. The member will become eligible for re-election and/or re-appointment upon notification from USBC of a change in their status.

5. Vacancies. Vacancies in positions on the Board are filled for the unexpired 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. The board fills vacancies in officer positions.

Note: when filling director vacancies, please consult with the youth committee for their recommendations.

Article VI--Officers

Section A. President and Vice Presidents

The officers of this association shall include a president and one vice president. *(The association determines if more than one vice president or a sergeant-at-arms is necessary and defines their duties and responsibilities to be placed in the association's operations manual).*

Section B. Election

(The board, adult members and youth representatives determine the election process.) Officers are elected by a majority vote of the adult members and officers and directors (the board), present and voting from:

1. A slate
2. Nominations from the floor. A current GOABA BOD application indicating the officer position being applied for and listing applicant's qualifications, ****must be submitted up to 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting where elections will be held**. 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.

Section C. Term

The term for elected officers is 2 years, not to exceed three years in a term. *The members determine the number of years in a term and the number of terms allowed and a stagger system.*

Section D. Authority and Duties

1 President

- a. Presides at all meeting.
- b. Acts as spokesperson for the association.
Appoints committees, with board approval.

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 designations 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, adult members and 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 meeting.)

1. Attendance

Attendance is open to all adult members and youth representatives and USBC youth members bowling in USBC leagues within the association's jurisdiction.

2. Voice and Vote

Voice: Adult members and USBC youth members bowling in USBC leagues within the association's jurisdiction may attend with voice only.

Vote: Board, adult members and youth representatives may attend with both voice and vote. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.

3. Responsibilities

a. Adult members, board and youth representatives shall:

- 1) Adopt bylaws with the exception of the youth dues.
- 2) Adopt local adult dues, up to the established maximum and the youth processing fee.
- 3) Elect delegates and alternates representing all members for the state annual meeting(s).
- 4) Elect delegates and alternates representing all members for the USBC Annual Meeting.
- 5) Youth delegates and alternates for the state annual meeting.

Note: A board member is a person elected to the board, to serve all members of the association. The youth committee makes recommendations to the entire board on programs, tournaments, fund raiser, etc. and the board makes the final decision. On the adult side, committees also make these same recommendations and the board makes the final decision

4. Meeting Notice

Written notice of the meeting shall be forwarded to the board; Youth leagues and center representatives 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 association.

6. Quorum

The board, adult members and youth representatives determine the number.

7. Action

A majority vote of those members 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 and directors requires a majority vote. Election of delegates, youth delegates and alternates require a majority vote. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.

Section B. Board Meetings

The board may 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** Five (5) board members constitutes a quorum.
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 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 association does allow the Board to vote via mail, e-mail, or teleconference as authorized by the State of Nebraska.

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 the following Standing Committees: Finance, Youth and Hall of Fame.

1. **Finance Committee.** The committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring association financial matters.
2. **Youth Committee.** The Youth Committee is responsible for monitoring, promoting, reviewing and recommending youth program conducted by the association.
3. **Hall of Fame.** Establish a procedure to recognize bowlers who excel in the area of performance and meritorious service.

Section B. Other Committees

The president may establish other committees, with board approval.

Article IX--Delegates, Youth Delegates and Alternates

Section A. USBC Annual Meeting

Delegates and alternates are elected by plurality vote* of those members, officers and directors present and voting. (See Article

VI, Section A of the USBC 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, Youth Delegates and alternates are elected by all members present and voting.

Section C. Eligibility

1. **USBC Annual Meeting.** Delegates and Alternates must be:

- a. Elected by the Board and members.
- 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.

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

Section D. Election

Delegates, Youth 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 by association application 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.

Alternates shall serve in order of their election.

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

Section E. Vacancies

Vacancies are filled for the un-expired portion of each term by the alternates in the order in which they were elected. 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. Procedures

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 present and voting. The amendment must be:

1. Submitted in writing to the Association Manager or president.
2. Submitted at least 30 days prior to the membership meeting when the association is considering the proposal. (*date or number of days to be set by the members*).

Section B. Change in Dues

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. Notification of any adopted changes in adult dues, and the reason for the change, will be forwarded, in writing to each 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

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

NOTE: As per delegate's action at the 2017 USBC Convention, Amendment B-5-USBC Merged Local Bylaws, Article VII, Meetings, Section A. Annual Meeting, One quorum for adult members and Youth Representatives.

All reference to separate adult and youth voting privileges have been removed.

7/2015

**Article V, Board of Directors, Section C2
Article VI, Officers, Section B2
Amended and approved as per delegate action at the 2023 USBC Convention to be effective immediately.

BARB MELONIS
Association Manager
May 19, 2023