



Knights of Columbus

Louisiana State Council
79th Annual State Bowling Tournament
January 10-11 & 17-18, 2026
Creole Lanes, Houma
U.S.B.C. Moral Support Sanctions
Louisiana State Council, Host

TOURNAMENT RULES

Rule 1. The tournament is open to all members in good standing of the Knights of Columbus of Louisiana and will be conducted under the rules of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC). Through USBC Moral Support Sanction, high score recognition is automatically extended to USBC members. Each entrant must verify KC membership by presenting a current KC Membership Card at registration.

Rule 2. A handicap based on **90%** of the difference between each bowler's average and the tournament scratch basis of **220** pins per game will be allowed in each event of the tournament. Handicaps shall be calculated for each bowler of a three-game scratch series. There is **NO** minimum average for this tournament.

Rule 3. (a) Entrant will use his highest USBC sanctioned league average based on a minimum of 21 games for the 2024-2025 season (book average). If a USBC sanctioned current 21-game average as of January 1, 2026 is 10 or more pins above a 2024-2025 season average (book), the current average **MUST** be used. Bowlers not having an acceptable average for the past season will use either their highest USBC sanctioned current average as of January 1, 2026, based on 21 games or more or their tournament average (if applicable) or 150 designated as the average for non-bowlers, whichever applies. **NO SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES ARE TO BE USED!** It shall be each **bowler's responsibility** to verify the accuracy of his average, whether originally submitted by the bowler, his team captain, or others. Failure to use the proper average or make a correction prior to or at the time of bowling shall disqualify all scores if the submitted average is lower than the actual average. If the submitted average is higher, prize winnings will be distributed on the basis of the higher submitted average. Notification of average corrections **MUST** be made to the Tournament Director **PRIOR TO COMPLETION** of the first game of a bowler's first series. To aid in the verification process, league bowlers **MUST** submit, with their entry or at registration, a printed average verification obtained from their league secretary that shows their average as January 1, 2026.

(b) Non-bowlers are welcome to enter and will be allowed to use an average of 150 and will be assigned a handicap on the basis of that average. If such non-bowlers participated in any Louisiana State KC Tournament since 2005, they **will be allowed to use the calculated average on their scratch scores from any**

games bowled since 2005, regardless if that average is LOWER or HIGHER than 150. Non-bowlers, when completing entry blanks, should enter "NB" where a numerical average is called for. A non-bowler is defined as a tournament entrant who cannot provide an entering average under RULE 3(a) of this tournament.

(c) To secure a high-score protection of the USBC, such non-bowlers can pay an unattached USBC membership sanction fee of \$27.00. Such protection is optional.

RULE 4. Entrants will be subject to a re-rating procedure for averages as stated by USBC Rule 319(e). Entrants who have qualified for a prize of \$600 or more in a tournament within the previous 12-month period, even though payment hasn't been made, **MUST REPORT** actual score, position and amount won for possible re-rating. Such a report must be submitted before the entrant bowls his/her first event. Failure to report such shall cause forfeiture of entry fees and prize winnings in this tournament. Re-rating of any entrant's average must be accomplished before his participation in the tournament.

RULE 5. Bowlers will be permitted to bowl more than once in the 4-man team and 2-man doubles events, when legally entered on the entry blank; however, a bowler may enter **ONLY ONCE** in the Singles event and **ONLY ONCE** with the same partner in the 2-man doubles event. In the 4-man team event, not more than two (2) bowlers on the same team can place more than **ONCE** in the prize list for position standing. In the 2-man doubles event, at least one member of the 2-man team must be participating in the 2-man event for the first time to be an eligible 2-man doubles event entry. When a bowler competes more than once, his **FIRST** appearance in each event shall count towards his **ALL-EVENTS** score. No re-entries will be allowed.

RULE 6. The receipt of any entry by the Tournament Director is accepted as correct until proven otherwise and the amount of money received shall regulate the number of participants, thereby allowing the team captain or his legal representative the privilege of substituting other bowlers to replace those on the entry blank who are unable, for sufficient reason, to attend the tournament at their scheduled time. The Tournament Director shall have supreme power as to the substitute offered by the captain; and if accepted, each substitute **MUST BOWL UNDER HIS OWN NAME** at the scheduled time in each event, during the tournament in which he is a substitute bowler. After a game is started, the substitute must complete the event.

RULE 7. Any bowler who does not appear when scheduled to bowl shall forfeit his entry unless the Tournament Director finds sufficient reason for postponing his event in question. In the 2-man doubles event, only one substitute will be allowed. One of the men entered and scheduled will be required to bowl, but the names of both members on the team must be given as entries; the word "PARTNER" will **NOT** be accepted. Entry blanks so completed will be returned and entry fee retained until a proper entry blank is received. If both entrants appear when scheduled, they shall bowl in the order listed on the entry blank.

RULE 8. No entry money will be refunded. As per USBC Rule 314..." after an entry has been received, and the dates assigned by tournament management are not refused before preparation of the schedule, the entry fee cannot be refunded". Entry fees are as follows (first increase since 2003): Bowling Fee = \$15.00; Prize Fee = \$6.50; and Tournament Expense = \$3.50 per entrant per event for a total of \$25.00 per entrant per event. The prize fee for All-Events (handicap) will be \$5.00 and is optional. Only those entrants paying the All-Events prize fee shall be eligible. The tournament will return 100% in prize fees in each event, which includes the cost of the awards in each event. The prize ratio will be at least one prize for each ten entries in each event and at least one prize for each fifteen entries for All-Events. Prize Fee awards will be posted in the bowling center on the opening day of the tournament. NOTE WELL...NO ENTRY IS VALID UNLESS ACCOMPANIED WITH ENTRY FEES!!!

RULE 9. Entries MUST be postmarked or electronically date stamped by **January 2, 2026 or electronically stamped as of 12:00 PM on January 7, 2026.** Please have your entry, with accompanying fees, to the Tournament Director postmarked or submitted electronically by these deadlines.

RULE 10. All bowlers MUST check-in at the tournament registration table no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled time for the event they are bowling, whether it be team, singles/doubles or mixed doubles. All entrants MUST display a current Knights of Columbus membership card when checking in.

SPECIAL RULES FOR MIXED DOUBLES EVENT (USBC Moral Support Sanctions)

RULE A. This event will consist of competition among mixed doubles entries. A mixed doubles entry shall consist of one male Knights of Columbus member and one female entrant, bowling as partners. The female entrant MUST be the guest of the male Knights of Columbus member.

RULE B. Each male entered shall be subject to ALL RULES of the 79th Annual Louisiana Knights of Columbus State Bowling Tournament. A male CANNOT use his mixed doubles score for All-Events competition. Each female entered in the mixed doubles event may enter ONLY ONCE, however a male entrant may enter more than once if bowling with his wife, mother and/or daughter(s). Female entrants shall be subject to all applicable rules of the 79th Annual Louisiana Knights of Columbus State Bowling Tournament except where there is a conflict between them and these Special Rules for the Mixed Doubles Event, in which case the latter shall prevail.

RULE C. A handicap based on 90% of the difference between a female bowler's average and the tournament scratch basis score of 220 pins per game shall be allowed in this event of the tournament. Handicaps shall be calculated for each player for a three-game series. There is NO minimum average for this tournament.

RULE D. (1) A female entrant will use her highest USBC sanctioned league average based on a minimum of 21 games for the 2024-2025 season. If a USBC sanctioned current 21-game average as of January 1, 2026 is 10 or more pins above a 2024-2025 season average (book), the current average MUST be used. Female bowlers not having an acceptable average for the past season will use their current average as of January 1, 2026 or their tournament average (if applicable) or 135 designated as the average for non-bowlers, whichever applies. NO SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES ARE TO BE USED. It shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of her average. Failure to use the proper average or make a correction prior to or at the time of bowling, shall disqualify the score if the submitted average is lower than her actual average. If her submitted average is higher, prize winnings will be distributed on the basis of that higher submitted average. Notification of average correction MUST be made to the Tournament Director prior to completion of the first game of a series.

(2) Female participants who are non-bowlers are welcome to enter the tournament. A non-bowler is defined as a mixed-doubles female entrant who cannot provide an entering average under RULE D. (1) of this tournament. Such a non-bowler, when completing the entry form, should enter the letters "NB" where a numerical average is called for. If such non-bowlers participated in any Louisiana Knights of Columbus State Bowling Tournament since 2005, they will be allowed to use the highest calculated average on their scratch score from any games bowled, regardless if that average is LOWER or HIGHER than 135.

(3) To secure high-score protection of the USBC, such non-bowlers can pay an unattached USBC membership sanction fee of \$27.00. Such protection, however, is optional.

RULE E. All female entrants will be subject to the re-rating procedure for averages as stated by the USBC Rule 319(e). In addition, female entrants who have qualified for a prize of \$600 or more in any event in a tournament within the previous 12-month period, even though payment has NOT been made, MUST REPORT actual score, position and amount won for possible re-rating. Such a report must be submitted before she bowls in the mixed-doubles event. Failure to report such shall cause forfeiture of entry fees and prize winnings in this tournament. The re-rating of any entrant must be accomplished before her participation in this tournament.

RULE F. Female entrants shall be subject to all rules and regulations of the USBC as applied to a tournament that has received Moral Support Sanction, in addition to all rules already outlined for this tournament.

RULE G. Entries MUST be postmarked by January 2, 2026 or electronically date stamped by 12:00 PM January 7, 2025. Your entry, with accompanying fees, submitted to the Tournament Director, must be postmarked or electronically date stamped by this deadline.