

UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS AND GREATER BUFFALO USBC ASSOCIATION  
SERVICES AND ANNUAL DUES STRUCTURE



**2011-12 Annual Dues**

USBC Portion	\$10
GBUSBCA Portion	\$ 7
NYS Portion	<u>\$ 1</u>
	\$18 <u>per member per year</u>

**SERVICES**

1. **AVERAGE BOOK AND AVERAGE VERIFICATIONS** – Complete, computerized record of each bowler's games and average. This book is the official record for use in tournaments and league verification of averages.
2. **BONDING PROTECTION** – Protects league funds without additional cost to the bowler, provided league is certified in a timely fashion, bank account is set up with two signatures, and president verifies bank account on a monthly basis.
3. **LEAGUE ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE** – Local association and USBC guides in rule information and interpretation, helps solve disputes, acts as an independent arbitrator, and serves as an accepted authority when league cannot resolve problems.
4. **STANDARDIZES LANE CONDITION** – Assists centers to improve scoring conditions when needed and gives guidance in areas, where necessary, to assure proper rule compliance where improper conditions are present, both of the above having as their goal the standardization of lane conditions.
5. **SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION** – Provides leagues with “beginning of the year” supplies and gives league secretaries an opportunity to obtain information. Supplies are paid for by the United States Bowling Congress and the Greater Buffalo USBC Association.
6. **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** – GBUSBCA hosts an Annual Membership Meeting, affording members the opportunity to elect officers, make inquiries, and voice opinions.
7. **ANNUAL LEAGUE OFFICERS TOURNAMENT** – Reward to officers for timely certification of league; GBUSBCA contributes lineage for this tournament. Minimal entry fee. Fun day for officers.
8. **ANNUAL SENIORS' TOURNAMENTS** – Tournaments based on age divisions. The Women's Tournament is held in November. The Open Tournament is held in April. Minimal entry fee. GBUSBCA provides winner of each age division with entry fee into respective New York State Seniors Tournament and \$50 travel allowance.
9. **ANNUAL GEORGE A. OBENAUER MASTERS TOURNAMENT** – GBUSBCA contributes entry fee into the USBC Masters Tournament and lodging and airfare reimbursement to the winner of the Obenauer Tournament. Gives higher-average bowlers a chance to compete for scratch prizes and crowns the winner as the prestigious Masters Champion for our area.
10. **ANNUAL CITY TOURNAMENTS** – Crowns local champions (OPEN, WOMEN, and YOUTH) as Association title holders. Provides awards for the scratch and handicap champions. The association adds several thousand dollars to the prize fund of the adult tournaments. Prize lists compare very favorably with other tournaments.
11. **HALL OF FAME** – Recognizes the best in the area for their ability and meritorious service by honoring them through election and enshrinement into the GBUSBCA Hall of Fame and entry into the National USBC Records. GBUSBCA hosts a bi-annual dinner. Bowlers, media, and general public are invited to participate.

12. **AWARDS PROGRAM** – Awards rings, plaques, trophies, emblems, magnets, and other tangible awards for high score accomplishments and also for unusual accomplishments (for example – emblems for a variety of splits, etc.), and generally recognizes accomplishments of bowlers of all abilities.

GBUSBCA offers several local awards to supplement the national awards program.

13. **LANE CERTIFICATION** – USBC and GBUSBCA make yearly inspection of bowling lanes, gutters, and pin decks in order that one establishment or one city will have comparable conditions to other centers.
14. **FULL AND COST-FREE CERTIFYING OF TOURNAMENTS** – This includes expert counseling and assistance, standard rules, and honest conditions of entry and handicapping, together with verification of averages and special recognition awards both for high scores and special accomplishments.
15. **PROMOTES STATE TOURNAMENTS** – Designed to provide enjoyable tournaments and to crown State Champions with the appropriate awards.
16. **NATIONAL USBC TOURNAMENT** – Designed to crown National Champions and distribute appropriate awards.
17. **POLICES VIOLATORS OF RULES AND NON-PAYERS OF DUES** – Through proper, fair, and full hearings and suspensions whenever necessary.
18. **STANDARDIZES RULES PLUS SUGGESTED LEAGUE RULES AND GUIDELINES** – USBC provides bowling with standardized rules and also provides written copies of suggested rules, always allowing leagues sufficient latitude to self govern within the general framework of the USBC Rules.
19. **PROVIDES END-OF-YEAR AWARDS KIT** – Contents of this kit consist of awards for Team Champions, Most Improved Bowler, and League High Average. Adults receive magnets and youth leagues receive emblems.
20. **PROVIDES AN INFORMATION CENTER BY MAINTAINING AN ASSOCIATION OFFICE FOR BOWLER USE** – A place where a certified bowler can call to get answers for almost any bowling question or ruling.
21. **ASSISTS LEAGUES IN MINIMIZING DROPOUTS** – Through use of mailing lists including addresses of members not fulfilling league obligations, and then following through in reminding them of their obligations.
22. **PROVIDES RE-RATINGS OF TOURNAMENT AND/OR OFFICIAL AVERAGES** – A necessity when protection of all tournament bowlers is required through re-rating certain bowlers who are competing at an average lower than their ability. This protects both league and tournament bowlers and insures fairness in competition.
23. **FREE MEMBERS' MAGAZINE** – USBC provides each bowler with online access to this quarterly publication containing news and information on all aspects of bowling.
24. **BOWLING FAMILY GO-BETWEEN** – If agreeable to both sides, will mediate disagreement between center and league.

## SOME REASONS TO CERTIFY – WHAT DO YOU GET?

- **IN ADDITION TO YOUR ESSENTIAL SERVICES, YOU ALSO RECEIVE VALUABLE REWARDS THROUGH YOUR USBC MEMBERSHIP.** The USBC Member Rewards program is an exciting way for members to fully utilize the benefits of being a USBC member. Members that use the discount offers available can save hundreds of dollars a year on products and services. USBC has partnered with numerous companies that provide exclusive discounts to our members. Some of these companies include:

**Perkspot (USBC Member Rewards Center)** – save 55% to 70% on restaurant certificates alone plus many other huge savings

**Nationwide Credit Card** – 0% introductory APR on bank credit card purchases and balance transfers for 6 billing cycles from account opening, 0% APR for 12 billing cycles on automotive repairs from date of repair purchase, 1% cash back rebates on all purchases each month that are automatically applied to your account, one-time \$10 rebate on your USBC membership with renewal dues automatically applied to the card, double cash back rewards for purchases from selected USBC merchant locations, no annual fee

**T-Mobile (12% off your monthly bill along with other discounts and free services)**

**Enterprise Rent-a-Car**

**American Airlines discounts**

**Kodak Store discounts**

**Many, many, many more!**

Also provided through the Greater Buffalo USBC Association is a <b>\$2,000 accidental death/dismemberment</b> insurance policy for our members.
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- **BONDING PROTECTION** – Your league money is insured and protected provided certain rules are followed. Duties of a league treasurer can be found in Rule 102f. Certified tournaments also receive free bonding protection.
- **YOU NEED AN AVERAGE** – Not just for tournaments, but for forming leagues and any competition and to avoid cheating
- **RULE INTERPRETATIONS** – You never know when a problem will arise. Who decides – NO ONE?? What can you do if no one can decide?? What about the penalty?? How do you enforce the rule if there's no one to decide?? Our rules will be used anyway and that works until a disagreement arises and there is no solution since there is no authority to make the decision. Problems do come up even in fun leagues. In fact, more so, and you don't realize it until it happens. **A fee of \$18 a year is a small price to pay for the peace of having someone to get answers from and to enforce a rule.**
- **AWARDS** – Fun leagues get awards too! Do you want a bowler who rolls a high score to miss out? See our award forms for the numerous awards available.
- **KEEPING YOUR BOWLERS** – If the Greater Buffalo USBC Association or USBC didn't exist, who would keep a player from quitting and breaking up your league?
- **REMEMBER—THE ENTIRE LEAGUE MUST JOIN** – It's a must!!! Rules and services do not apply to only part of your league. Further, averages would not be available for all bowlers. Everyone in the league uses our services, and everyone should pay their fair share. Rules, questions and answers, supplies, rule books, lane regulation, bonding protection of money, and average verification are only a few of the services you receive.
- **FREE ON-LINE MEMBERS' MAGAZINE TO EVERY BOWLER** – Published quarterly, USBC provides each bowler with access to this publication containing news and information on all aspects of bowling.
- **SPECIAL TOURNAMENTS FOR LEAGUE BOWLERS** – League Officers Tournament, Greater Buffalo USBC Association's Annual City Championship Tournaments (Adult and Youth), "Me & Mine" Tournament, Seniors Tournaments, and the George A. Obenauer Masters Tournament