BYLAWS

OF THE

GULF COAST USBC

ASSOCIATION, INC.

OF THE

UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

As of 1, May 17 2024

Louis Butler

Association President 2024-2026

Ellen McEwen

Association Manager 2024-2025

Effective as of August 1, 2024

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of the organization is the Gulf Coast USBC Association, Inc., chartered by the United States Bowling Congress.

Section 1. Jurisdiction

- A. This organization is founded for the purpose of uniting in a central organization all members of qualified bowling teams, leagues and unattached individuals bowling in certified establishments located in the following cities which are within the area prescribed in Article 1 of this constitution:
 - a. Cypress Lanes D'Iberville, MS
 - b. Keesler Gaude' Lanes Keesler AFB, MS
 - c. Park Ten Lanes Diamondhead, MS
- B. The following boundary lines have been established for this association.
 - a. West. Louisiana state line
 - b. East. City limits on north and east of Ocean Springs, MS
 - c. South. Gulf of Mexico (Mississippi Sound)
 - d. North. City limits on east, north and west of Wiggins, MS

ARTICLE II

Nonprofit Corporation and Charter

Section 1. 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 Cord (IRC).

Section 2. Charter

- **A.** The association shall be charted by USBC and subject to its authority. To maintain its charter, the association must:
 - a. Provide services for men, women and youth.
 - b. Adopt bylaws approved by USBC
 - c. Not enact any bylaws or rules inconsistent with USBC bylaws.
 - d. Adhere to Performance Standards and stated requirements as set forth in the USBC Association Policy Manual.
 - e. Apply for renewal of its charter every five years.

ARTICLE III

Purpose

- A. The purpose of the association as stated in the Articles of Incorporation, include but are not limited to:
 - a. Providing equal opportunity for all in the sport of bowling without regard to race, religion, age, gender, disability or national origin.
 - b. Promoting the game of American Tenpins.
 - c. Conducting and supporting bowling competition.
 - d. Engaging in any other activities permitted by an organization classified as tax exempt under Section 502 (c)(3) of the IRC.

ARTICLE IV

Membership and dues

Section 1. Membership

All who are interested in bowling and qualify under the rules of the congress and this association. Membership is composed on individuals who pay dues to the association and is in effect from August 1 through July 31.

Section 2. Dues

- A. Memberships for local dues for adults will be set by the board and league secretaries at the annual meeting the second week of April by 2/3 vote. Future increase in National and State dues may be absorbed into current local dues total by 2/3 combined vote by the board and league secretaries, otherwise they will be passed on to members and the By- Laws adjusted accordingly.
- B. Dues to bowl in the local Gulf Coast USBC sanctioned leagues and tournaments are:
 - a. Gulf Coast USBC Adult per member as follows:
 - i. \$15.00 going to the National USBC (National Dues)
 - ii. \$ 3.00 going to the MS State USBC (State Dues)
 - iii. \$12.00 going to Gulf Coast USBC (Local Dues)
 - iv. \$30.00 Total
 - b. Gulf Coast USBC Senior Adult (70 years+) per member as follows:
 - i. \$15.00 going to the National USBC (National Dues)
 - ii. \$ 3.00 going to the MS State USBC (State Dues)
 - iii. \$.00 going to Gulf Coast USBC (Local Dues)
 - iv. \$18.00 Total
 - c. Non-Gulf Coast USBC Adult per member as follows:
 - i. From other in-state USBC associations
 - 1. \$12.00 going to the Gulf Coast USBC (Local Dues)
 - 2. \$12.00 Total
 - ii. From out of state USBC associations
 - 1. \$ 3.00 going to the MS State USBC (State Dues)
 - 2. \$12.00 going to the Gulf Coast USBC (Local Dues)
 - 3. \$15.00 Total
 - iii. Abbreviated League 10 to 12 weeks
 - 1. \$15.00 going to the National USBC (National Dues)
 - 2. \$ 3.00 going to the MS State USBC (State Dues)
 - 3. \$18.00 Total

- d. The board may waive all or part of local dues for:
 - i. Members of other USBC associations having a reciprocal agreement with the association.
 - ii. Other groups such as, seniors, etc., as determined by the board.
- C. Memberships for local dues youth, if any, based on the recommendation of the youth committee will be adopted by the board at the annual meeting by 2/3 vote.
 - a. Gulf Coast USBC Youth dues per member as follows:
 - i. \$4.00 going to the National USBC (National Dues)
 - ii. \$4.00 Total
- D. Life Membership
 - a. Life membership may be granted by meeting certain criteria as set forth by association guidelines. See Appendix B, Life Membership.

ARTICLE V

Board Composition, Authority and Duties

Section 1. Management

- A. The management and governance of the association is vested in the board of directors. The members and Youth Representatives determine the number of directors.
 - a. The total number of Board Members will be defined as in Article VI Section 1 with one (1) vice president each and one (1) director based on house size per 12 lanes or fraction thereof
 - b. At least 20% of the total numbers of Youth directors will be elected by the Youth Committee. The number of directors elected by the Youth committee will be defined in Article VI Section 1.
- B. The board shall not engage in any acts constituting a conflict of interest. The board's duties include but are not limited to:
 - a. Enforcing the bylaws
 - b. Complying with the USBC Association Policy Manual
 - c. Ensuring adherence to all USBC Performance Standards.
 - d. Adopting youth dues, up to the maximum set by USBC, based on the recommendation of the Youth Committee.
 - e. Conducting championship level competition for its membership constituency (men, women, and youth) and complying with state and local laws in our area.
 - f. Provide education, training, evaluations, recognition and other services as determined by USBC.
 - g. Implementing USBC programs.
 - h. Selecting/appointing and evaluating the performance of the Association Manager.
 - i. Approving use of membership records.
 - j. 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.
 - k. Conducting Suspension and Reinstatement hearings. (See Suspension and Reinstatement Procedures in USBC Bylaws and Association Policy Manual.)

Section 2. Eligibility

A. A candidate for the board must be:

- a. A member in good standing of the association at the time of election and throughout their term.
- b. Elected or appointed and at least 14 years of age (youth committee), and be reasonable representative of the membership.
- c. Any member of the board authorized to sign contracts or acting as signatory on association accounts must be a minimum age of 21.
- d. A maximum of two bowling center proprietors (owner, manager, corporate officer, partner [26% share of more]) may serve on the board at one time.
- e. Additional eligibility requirements, if any will be developed by the nominating committee to be approved by the membership.

ARTICLE VI Gulf Coast USBC Board of Directors

Section 1. Officers & Directors

A. The officers of this association shall include a president and three (3) vice-presidents. There shall be six (6) directors including one (1) at large director and three (3) youth committee directors of which one (1) is an adult voting member and two (2) youth members.

Section 2. Election

- **A.** Officers and directors are elected by majority vote of the adult member 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. Voting will be by ballot if there is more than one nominee for each position.

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

Section 3. Term

A. The term for elected officers is two (2) years. The president, even vice-president (ex. 2nd and 4th), and three (3) directors will be elected in even years. The odd vice-presidents (ex. 1st and 3rd), the at large and three (3) directors will be elected in odd years.

Section 4. Authority and Duties

A. President

- a. Presides at all meetings.
- b. Acts as spokesperson for the association.
- c. Appoints committees, except nominating and youth, with board approval.

NOTE: All committees should be composed of both board members and non-board members.

B. Vice presidents.

- **a.** The vice-president designated by the president shall perform the duties of the president when they are absent.
- **b.** Perform other duties as prescribed by the board or requested by the president.
- **C.** Directors should be proficient with the USBC constitution, specifications, rules and suggested league rules, and league bylaws in order to assist bowlers and resolve any questions involving league or tournament play.
 - **a.** Actively serve on at least one committee as appointed by the president.
 - **b.** Attend all scheduled meetings of the board of directors and committee(s) to which they are assigned, unless properly excused.
 - **c.** Promote and participate in activities sponsored by the association.
 - **d.** Assist the tournament committee and tournament manager in all phases of tournament operation.
 - e. Conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times in order to promote confidence and reflect favorably upon the association and the game of bowling.
 - **f.** Failure to perform these duties diligently or conduct that reflects unfavorably upon the association shall be subject to action removal from office.

D. Association Manager

- a. Selected/appointed by and accountable to the board.
- b. Responsible for implementation of USBC Performance Standards.
- c. Acts as the official non-voting secretary/treasurer of the board or such other officer designation as required by law and determined by the board.
- d. Responsible for other duties as prescribed by the board and in the USBC Association Policy Manual.
- e. Any salary paid to the association manager must be approved by the board. Currently the fee is \$5 per paid membership (includes life memberships). Act as tournament manager for all tournaments, because the association manager has access to WinLabs, which has names, id numbers and averages for all bowlers. Fees for the tournament manager shall be \$2 per event per bowler.

Section 5. Resignation, Removal and Vacancies in Office

A. Resignation

a. A board member may resign from the board of directors by providing written notice of resignation to the president or, in case of the president, to the board. Notice may be provided by handwritten and delivered, US mail, or e-mail format.

B. Removal for ineligibility

a. A 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.

C. Removal for cause

- a. 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 within fifteen (15) days of the removal. Two/thirds written consent of the board is required to seek re-election and/or re-appointment to the board.
- **D.** Vacancies in positions on the board are filled for the unexpired portion of each term as follows:
 - a. If elected by the members, vacancies are filled by the president, subject to approval by the board.
 - b. If elected by the Youth Committee, vacancies are filled by the Youth Committee.
 - c. The board fills vacancies in officer's positions.

ARTICLE VII

Gulf Coast USBC Board of Directors

Section 1. Annual Meetings - Youth

- **A.** An annual meeting of association youth representatives shall be held on the first Saturday of April at a time and place approved by the board of directors.
 - a. Youth Representatives
 - i. Attendance is open to all members. Voting members and youth representatives/alternates must be at least fourteen (14) years of age. Each youth league is entitled to one adult representative and one youth representative. A league is not eligible for representation if it has not submitted a league sanction application.
 - **ii.** A center having at least one sanctioned youth league is entitled to one youth representative.
 - **iii.** The following individuals can be considered for youth representatives/alternates:
 - 1. Member of a sanctioned youth league.
 - **2.** Youth leaders.
 - **3.** Youth league officers (i.e., supervisors, officers, coaches, etc.).

B. Voice and vote

- a. Members/youth representatives shall:
 - i. Adopt bylaws, with the exception of youth dues.
 - ii. Elect the youth committee
 - iii. Elect youth representatives and alternates to the state annual meeting.

C. Responsibilities

- a. Youth representatives shall:
 - i. Adopt bylaws, with the exception of youth dues.
 - ii. Elect the youth committee
 - iii. Elect youth representatives and alternates to the state annual meeting.

D. Meeting notice

- a. Written notice of the meeting shall be forwarded to the youth representatives at least fifteen (15) days prior to the annual meeting by the youth committee chairman.
- b. A quorum is five (5) youth representatives for youth related elections and activities.

Section 2. Annual Meeting – Adult

- A. Annual Meeting will be held anytime the month of April at the discretion of the President and Association Manager.
 - a. Adult members
 - i. Attendance is open to all members.
 - ii. Section 1. Annual Meeting Youth, will apply

B. Voice and vote

a. Section 1. Annual Meeting – Youth, will apply.

C. Responsibilities

- a. Adult members shall:
 - i. Adopt bylaws, with the exception of youth dues.
 - ii. Adopt local adult dues up to the established maximum.
 - iii. Elect up to 80% of the board, including all officers.
 - iv. Elect delegates and alternates representing adult membership for the USBC and state annual meeting.

D. Meeting notice

- a. Written notice of the meeting shall be forwarded to the board, youth representatives and league secretaries, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the annual meeting. Special meetings may be called by the president or upon written request of at least three (3) board members.
- b. A quorum is twenty-five (25) members
- c. Absentee and proxy voting are not allowed.

E. Action

a. 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 of these bylaws. Election of officers and directors requires a majority vote. Elections of delegates, youth representatives and alternates require a plurality vote. A plurality vote is the largest number of votes cast for a given candidate. The candidate receiving the most votes is the winner.

Section 3. Board Meetings

- A. The board shall meet at least twice yearly. Additional and Special meetings may be held upon the request of the president or any board member. For board member request, a majority of the board approves.
 - a. Notice: Written notice for all regular and special meetings shall be forwarded to the board, which should be at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting.
 - b. Quorum: When over half of the board members are available at a meeting it will constitute a quorum.
 - c. A quorum may be obtained by use of teleconference, web meeting, Skype or other electronic means on an ad hoc basis when approved by simple majority of attending members.
 - d. 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.

Section 4. Parliamentary Procedure

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

ARTICLE VII Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees

- A. The Gulf Coast USBC will have the following standing committees:
 - a. Nominating: This committee reviews candidates and prepares states for adult board, delegates representing adult membership and alternate positions. The committee will prepare slates for the youth committee and youth representatives/alternates based on the recommendation of the youth committee. The committee publicizes criteria and procedures for the elected positions.
 - b. Finance Committee: This committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring the annual budget and other financial matters.
 - c. Youth Committee: The Youth Committee is elected by the youth representatives and responsible for:
 - i. Developing eligibility requirements for board members representing the youth.
 - ii. Electing at least 20% of the board members from the youth committee.
 - iii. Developing eligibility requirements for the youth committee, subject to approval of the board of directors.
 - iv. Recommending youth dues, to be approved by the board.
 - v. Monitoring, promoting, reviewing and recommending youth programs conducted by the association.
- B. Other Committees
 - a. The president may establish other committees with board approval.

ARTICLE VIII Hall of Fame Section 1. Hall of Fame

- A. The Gulf Coast USBC will honor certain bowlers by inducting them into the Hall of Fame.
 - a. Bowler must meet certain criteria as explained in Appendix I, Hall of fame Directive at the end of these bylaws.
 - b. The Hall of Fame committee will consist of the association president, association manager, plus five (5) members appointed by the president as explained in Appendix I Hall of Fame Directive.
 - c. All applications are due December 1.

Appendix I Hall of Fame Directive

ARTICLE IX

Delegates, Youth Representatives and Alternates Section 1. USBC Annual Meeting

A. USBC Annual Meeting

a. Adult delegates and adult alternates are elected by plurality vote of those adult members present and voting.

B. Eligibility

- a. Elected by adult members
- b. At least 18 years old
- c. A member in good standing of the association at the time of election and throughout their term.

Section 2. State Annual Meeting

A. State Annual Meeting

- a. Delegates and alternates representing adults are elected by plurality vote of those adult members present and voting
- b. Youth representatives and alternates are elected by plurality vote of those local youth representatives present and voting.

B. Eligibility

- a. Elected by adult members or youth representatives.
- b. At least 14 years of age.
- c. A member in good standing of the association at the time of election and throughout their term.

Section 3. Election

- A. Adult delegates, youth representatives and alternates serve of one year, beginning August 1, are elected by:
 - a. A slate provided by the nominating committee.
 - b. Nominations from the floor. Qualifications must be submitted to the nominating committee.
 - c. 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 filled.
 - d. Alternates shall serve in order of their election.

Section 4. Vacancies

- A. Vacancies are filled for the unexpired portion of each term as follows:
 - a. 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 vacancy position by appointment.
 - b. 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.

ARTICLE X

Amendments Section 1. Procedure

- A. Any member of the association may summit proposed amendments to these bylaws. The Gulf Coast USBC 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:
 - a. Submitted in writing to the association manager or president.
 - b. Submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to the membership meeting when the association is considering the proposal.
- B. Changes to the Board of Director structure due to opening and closing of bowling center is not subject to the 2/3 vote change requirement. In the event of a reduction of bowling centers, the completion of the terms of the assigned directors will be as a "director at large" until the end of the elected term. In the event of an increase in the number of bowling centers the "at large director" will serve as the representative until an election is held.

Section 2. Change in Dues

- A. **Adult Dues**. Forward a notice to each league secretary at least fifteen (15) prior to the meeting at which the proposed change is considered. The notice must:
 - a. Be in writing.
 - b. Specify the amount of the changed.
 - c. Specify the reason for the change.

NOTE: Increase in National and State dues may be absorbed into current local dues by 2/3 vote by the board and league secretaries, otherwise they will be passed on to members and the By-Laws adjusted accordingly.

- B. Youth Dues.
 - a. Changes in dues are adopted by the board, based on recommendations of the youth committee.

Notification of any adopted change in dues, and the reason for the change, will be forwarded in writing to each league secretary and youth league official.

Section 3. Effective Date

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

ARTICLE XI Fiscal Year Section 1. Fiscal Year

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

ARTICLE XII Indemnification

A. Officers, directors 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.

APPENDIX I HALL OF FAME DIRECTIVE

OF

THE GULF COAST USBC ASSOCIATION, INC

Approved April 3, 2021

Terry King – Association President 2020-2022

Theresa Seeger - Association Manager 2020-2024

Effective August 1, 2024

APPENDIX I – HALL OF FAME

NAME:

The name of this organization shall be the Gulf Coast USBC Association Inc. Hall of Fame.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this organization shall be honor, pay tribute to, and perpetuate the names of those members who in the judgment of the Association, have displayed outstanding ability in the game of American Tenpins and/or who have contributed, through meritorious service, promotion of the sport of bowling or other significant contribution to the Gulf Coast USBC Association, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership in the Hall of Fame shall be determined at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual Gulf Coast USBC Open Handicap Tournament for men or women entering the Hall of Fame. Applications are due: December 1

COMMITTEE:

The hall of Fame Committee shall be an official function of the Gulf Coast USBC Association, Inc. The Committee shall be comprised of the President and the Association Manager along with the following members appointed by the President as follows:

- Two (2) members from the ranks of the current Vice- Presidents or two (2) directors from different bowling alleys.
- Two (2) members from the ranks of Life Members.
- One (1) member from the ranks of Hall of Fame Members.

Members of the committee will be appointed annually and the President of the Gulf Coast USBC Association, Inc., shall announce the membership at the first quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors. The Committee, so formed, shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. The Gulf Coast USBC Association Manager shall function as the Executive Secretary of the Committee.

NOMINATIONS:

Any member of the Gulf Coast USBC Association, Inc., may submit nominations, in writing, with the qualifications and achievements of nominees, to the Association Manager for consideration by the Hall of Fame Committee. It shall be the prerogative of the Hall of Fame Committee to obtain any additional information on the nominee from the nominator or any other source as desired. The use of the standard nomination form is strongly recommended. Nominees must be active members or deceased members of the Gulf Coast USBC in order to be considered.

QUALIFICATIONS:

To be eligible for election to the Gulf Coast USBC Association Hall of Fame, nominees must in the judgment of the Committee:

Be an active participant in the gulf Coast USBC Association for a significant period of time. (Nominations from the ranks of the deceased need not meet this requirement.) Be of good repute among his peers.

Demonstrate and promote exemplary sportsmanship.

Contribute in a significant way to the sport of bowling through league or tournament participation, sponsorship, fund raising, promotion and/or advertising Gulf Coast USBC activities or participation in the Gulf Coast USBC Executive Board, or by any other activities, which in the opinion of the Hall of Fame Committee should be considered in the nomination and selection process.

SELECTION OF NOMINEES:

The Hall of Fame Committee shall review all nominations and select not more than five (5) women's and five (5) men's (ten (10) in total) candidates judged by the Committee to be the most qualified and deserving of selection.

Nominations not selected by the Committee shall be retained in the Gulf Coast USBC files for consideration in the following two years.

Nominations not selected by the Committee during a three-year period will be destroyed.

Candidates may be renominated in the manner as stated in the "NOMINATIONS" section of this Directive at any time.

ELECTION:

Not more than four (4) members may be elected to the Hall of Fame each year. When qualified nominees are available from both genders, a maximum of two (2) Women's candidates and two (2) Men's candidates for each annual Gulf Coast USBC City Open Handicap Tournament will be selected. In the event that less than two (2) men or two (2) women members are nominated within the maximum number of ten (10) candidates, the committee may increase the gender mix to allow up to four (4) qualified nominees to be elected.

Members of the Committee will cast a secret ballot in favor of for zero (0) to two (2) nominees from each of the women's and men's slate for a total of no more than four (4) members elected. In the event of a non-evenly divided slate, the secret ballot cast may total in favor of zero (0) to four (4) with each gender on its own merit.

It will require two-thirds of the votes cast to present a nominee into enshrinement into the hall of fame.

AWARDS:

Each member elected to the Hall of Fame shall receive a certificate bearing the name of the Gulf Coast USBC Association Hall of Fame with their name and year of election inscribed thereon.

Each member elected to the Hall of Fame shall receive a distinguishing insignia appropriate for display on shirt or jacket.

A suitable permanent plaque or Hall of Fame Board shall be established for inscription of the names of all members elected to the Gulf Coast USBC Hall of Fame. This plaque or board shall be exhibited at each annual Gulf Coast USBC Handicap Tournament.

CEREMONIES:

Awards shall be made at the opening ceremony of the "Hall of Fame" shift of the Annual Gulf Coast USBC City Open Handicap Tournament. In the case of members elected posthumously, the nearest of kin shall be invited to attend the ceremony and accept the awards.

AMENDMENTS:

This directive may be amended by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the eligible voters in attendance at the Annual meeting provided that any such amendment shall have been submitted to the Gulf Coast USBC Association Manager not less than thirty (30) days prior to said annual meeting.

Amendment Notes:

The Appendix for the Hall of Fame Directive of the Gulf Coast USBC Association Inc., was adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Council of Delegates of 2007.

This amendment was amended to clarify activities of the Hall of Fame Committee based on past practice since the merger of the men's and women's associations occurred in 2005 and was adopted at the Annual Membership Meeting of the Gulf Coast USBC of 2021.

APPENDIX B LIFE MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES OF

THE GULF COAST USBC ASSOCIATION, INC

Written by Michelle VanderMeer 2014-15
Association Manager

Gulf Coast USBC Association, Inc. Life Membership

- 1. Life membership to the Gulf Coast USBC Association, Inc. may be granted to any association board member who has served three (3) elected two-year terms (six years) of office as association president, six-year (six years) of office as association manager, or anyone who has completed twelve (12) years as a member of the board of directors, who has gone above and beyond the call of duty that they were elected to do.
- 2. To be granted life membership, a member must receive a 2/3 vote at the annual meeting by secret ballot. Those life members shall be nonvoting unless they are on the board of directors.
- 3. Life membership may be suspended by 2/3 vote of the board of directors whenever a life member causes problems or harms the credibility of the Gulf Coast USBC Association, Inc.
- 4. The Gulf Coast USBC Association, Inc will absorb the cost of life member's national, state and local dues