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*Directors terms are available on bowl.com.



USBC Executive Team



Kevin Dornberger
Interim Chief Operating Officer;
Chief Officer —
National Governing Body
(414) 423-3327
Kevin.Dornberger@bowl.com



Roseann Kuhn
Chief Officer —
Tournaments and Events
(414) 423-3260
Roseann.Kuhn@bowl.com



Tom Clark
Chief Officer —
Marketing and
Communications
(414) 423-3384
Tom.Clark@bowl.com



Jack Mordini
Chief Officer —
Membership Products
and Services
(414) 423-3257
Jack.Mordini@bowl.com



Tim Payne
Chief Officer —
Fulfillment
(414) 423-3353
Tim.Payne@bowl.com





United States Bowling Congress

5301 S. 76th Street ★ Greendale, WI 53129-1128

Telephone (800) 514-BOWL ★ FAX (414) 421-8560 ★ TTY, TDD (414) 423-3465

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2007 Legislative Update

The following is a synopsis of the changes since the last printing of this book. The synopsis lists the change and the rule affected. All changes are effective August 1, 2007 unless otherwise noted.

League Rules

Rule 111e, Item 8 – Excludes scores bowled in unopposed pre or post bowling from USBC high score award eligibility. (Delegates ratified the USBC Board vote when the board approved this amendment for the 2006-07 season.)

Rule 119 – Requires a protest or appeal to be filed within 72 hours of the final date of the schedule, segment or playoff.

Tournament Rules

Rule 307, Item c – Allows tournament rules the option to determine distribution of special feature prizes.

Changes to the Rule Book

Awards Section

The awards section in the middle of the rule book that showed pictures of the USBC awards an individual can earn has been moved to our website, bowl.com. Colored pictures of the high score awards can also be found in the middle section of the *League Operations Handbook* each secretary received with his/her supplies.

Commonly Asked Questions

The Commonly Asked Questions have been moved from the back of the book and now accompany each rule as appropriate. We have also expanded the number of questions in the online version of the rulebook. The questions and answers listed are the ones leagues or individuals need most frequently while bowling.

Codification Changes

General Playing Rules

Rule 2b – moved to 3

Rules 3a through 3g – moved to 2b through 2h

Rule 16a – moved to 17f, renumbered 16b as 16



League Rules

Rule 100c – Deleted guideline for organizing youth leagues, can be found on bowl.com

Rule 106d – Moved to 109c

Rule 109c – Moved to 110b

Rule 111a – Combined with 111d and renumbered 111b – 111g as 111a – 111f

Rule 114a – Divided into 114a and 114b

Rule 114b – Moved to 104c

Rule 114c – Moved to 104d



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The game's evolved,

Chameleon

Chameleons change color to outsmart their enemies. To excel on this pattern, bowlers must be versatile in many styles of play.



PBA/LLC



Viper

A viper strikes with multiple angles of attack. This pattern will challenge players to attack the pins from multiple angles in order to score well.

Scorpion

A scorpion is dangerous and unpredictable, like this pattern. If you can't find the right groove on the lanes, you'll be stung!



Cheetah

A cheetah may look harmless, but this speedster has a dangerous side. So does this pattern - with a fast scoring pace and play near the gutter, there's no room for error.

Shark

This pattern forces bowlers to play deep inside the center of the lanes, like sharks that troll the depths of the ocean.



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Chapter 1: USBC Introduction

USBC Mission

The United States Bowling Congress, as the national governing body, ensures the integrity and protects the future of the sport, provides programs and services and enhances the bowling experience.

Membership

How Obtained

Membership in USBC is composed of adults and youth who have paid the appropriate USBC, state (if applicable) and local association dues. Membership in USBC may be obtained through a league, tournament, chartered association, Alliance-at-Large and via bowl.com. Upon completing a membership application card and paying the appropriate dues, an individual becomes a member of USBC plus one USBC local and one USBC state association.

A new member who joins a summer league after March 15 of the current season shall, at the time the individual files his/her application for membership, pay only those annual USBC, state and local dues that are then known to be, or to become, effective for the next season. Upon payment of such dues, the individual shall be granted membership in USBC and applicable state and local associations for the balance of the current season and the next season.

A bowler must pay dues in each local association in which he/she applies for membership and/or bowls, except as provided in Rule 100e, Traveling leagues, 100l, Mail-o-graphic leagues or if the associations have a reciprocal agreement to waive dues. When a bowler joins a local association, he/she shall join the applicable state association. Regardless of the number of state and local associations in which an individual holds membership, they shall pay current USBC national membership dues only one time.

Upon obtaining membership in USBC each member agrees to be bound by all final decisions of USBC concerning application or interpretation of USBC Bylaws, playing rules and other matters relating to the sport of bowling as governed by USBC.

Required Fees

Each individual applying for USBC membership shall pay annual USBC, state and local association dues as follows:

	Adult	Youth
USBC	\$10	\$9.50
Maximum State	\$1	\$.50
Maximum Local	\$10	\$4
Total Maximum	\$21	\$14



State and local dues amounts will not exceed the maximums established by USBC delegates. Youth dues may be different from adult dues. Members of multiple local associations pay the appropriate state, if required, and local dues, unless the associations have a reciprocal agreement to waive or reduce dues.

If a youth purchases youth and adult membership, national dues are only paid once.

Effective Dates

On receipt of a membership application and the appropriate dues, a membership card will be valid:

1. for the season starting August 1 through July 31.
2. through October 1 of the following season for summer leagues and tournaments.
3. through the balance of the current season and the following season when purchased after March 15 either through a summer league or associate membership.

Youth who turn 22 during the season are not granted the October 1 extension for tournament play; youth membership expires July 31 of the season in which they turn 22 years old. If a youth member bowling in a summer league turns 22 during the season and the league continues beyond July 31, the bowler may complete the league as a youth bowler.

For membership to be effective as of the date purchased in a league, the league secretary must forward the league membership dues, application cards and league application to the local association within 30 days. Otherwise, membership benefits are not effective until the date received at the local association office.

Possession of a valid membership card entitles the bowler to participate in all USBC competition for which they are otherwise qualified.

Changes in Dues

The maximum dues structure for adults may only be changed by the USBC delegation. The dues structure for youths may only be changed by the USBC Board based on recommendations from the Youth Committee.

Types of Membership

In addition to USBC adult and youth standard membership, USBC offers the following optional membership programs:

Sport Bowling

All bowlers participating in USBC Sport Bowling leagues must pay or provide proof of payment of the Sport Bowling membership dues in addition to all required standard USBC membership dues. Unless required by tournament rule, participants in Sport Bowling tournaments are not required to be Sport Bowling members.

Substitutes in USBC Sport Bowling leagues are permitted to participate in one league session per season without the requirement to purchase Sport Bowling membership if they already have purchased USBC standard



membership for the current season. Only USBC Sport Bowling members are eligible for USBC Sport Bowling awards.

Basic USBC membership dues for ABC Lifetime and WIBC Permanent members will be paid by USBC, but the bowler is responsible for paying the additional Sport Bowling dues.

Junior Gold

Membership consists of elite youth bowlers and entails the following requirements:

- a. Must be a USBC member in good standing and maintain compliance with Rule 400.
- b. Boys must carry a minimum 175 average.
- c. Girls must carry a minimum 165 average.
- d. Must purchase an additional Junior Gold membership of \$30 (if joining with a friend both would pay \$25) separate from their regular USBC membership.
 - 1) Junior Gold members will receive a Youth Sport membership.
 - 2) Junior Gold membership is valid for one year from the date of purchase.
 - 3) Renewal fee is \$25.

Associate

Associate membership is available to individuals who do not obtain membership through a USBC league subject to the following:

- a. The associate membership dues shall be:
 - 1) **Adult** – National dues (\$10) plus the actual dues charged by the local and state association the bowler is joining. When local and state dues are not known, adult associate dues will be \$21 (\$10 national, \$10 local, \$1 state)
 - 2) **Youth** – \$14
- b. When associate membership is obtained after March 15, the individual shall become a member for the balance of the current season and the next season.
- c. The dues automatically will be adjusted whenever changes are made to the national, state and local dues.

Collegiate

USBC Collegiate membership entitles student-athletes to participate in all certified intercollegiate conferences and tournaments. Membership is open to all men and women currently enrolled in an institute of higher education.

To become a member, an intercollegiate team will complete the Application for Membership and submit the required dues. Each student-athlete also will complete a USBC membership application. Collegiate bowlers hold USBC National Membership and a Sport Bowling Membership upgrade only. If the USBC Collegiate member participates in USBC standard or Sport Bowling competition, the applicable state/local membership dues must be paid, similar to multiple memberships.

High School

Membership through the USBC High School Program is available at no charge to any high school team registering their individual bowlers for the program.



The membership is valid solely for recognized high school competitions during each individual teams' official high school bowling season. In order to participate in other USBC Youth competitions, (non-USBC High School) the individual must obtain USBC membership by paying all required standard USBC membership dues.

Averages from the USBC High School Program will not be recognized for entry purposes into any other USBC leagues and/or tournaments.

USBC Lifetime Membership

Former ABC Lifetime and WIBC Permanent Membership will be recognized by USBC Headquarters. Membership dues will be credited by USBC to the appropriate state and local association(s) upon submission of the membership application. In addition, USBC will reimburse membership dues for one local association and one state association per season.

Optional Benefits

USBC:

- a. May offer optional benefits for members at dues reflective of the value of services provided by USBC, state and/or local associations.
- b. May offer optional benefits for men, women and youth bowlers who choose to be identified with USBC. Dues will reflect the level of membership privileges, services and benefits provided.
- c. Determines dues for USBC and establishes the maximum amount of state and local dues only for optional benefits.

The association must offer all levels of membership as established by USBC.

USBC is authorized to test optional benefits prior to offering them, and to waive those specific bylaws, rules and regulations required for testing and implementation.

Youth Membership Eligibility

Rule 400

- A. Except as provided in Item B, a youth may not bowl, substitute or pace in any bowling activity which offers any of the following as prizes:
 1. Cash or bonds.
 2. Merchandise exceeding \$500 in value.
- B. Youth may bowl in singles competitions (including side competitions/brackets) offering such prizes, provided, prior to bowling:
 1. The competition agrees to award the youth's prize in the form of a scholarship; or
 2. The youth signs a form waiving his/her rights to any prize in violation of this rule.

In youth competition, youth members may participate in side competitions/brackets provided all entries are returned 100% in the form of scholarships only and awards comply with Item A above.



Buying or selling of earned prizes is prohibited.

Any youth bowler deemed in violation of this rule is subject to disciplinary action including the potential loss of youth membership.

NOTE: There are no limits on scholarship amounts or entry fees (must be paid directly to the tournament director/manager) and reimbursement of actual travel expenses into the next higher level of competition or any tournament or event. (Receipts must be provided upon request.)

The prizes authorized by a state high school athletic association or a collegiate athletic association recognized by USBC and USBC Collegiate are not subject to the limitations of this rule.

Amendment Procedures

Amendments submitted by a member or chartered association to the USBC General Playing Rules, Adult League and Tournament Rules must be in writing to the USBC CEO by September 1 prior to the date of the next USBC Annual Meeting for action by the delegates.

The USBC Board, by a two-thirds vote, amends the USBC Awards and Youth League and Tournament Rules. The USBC Board also has authority to adopt Resolutions.

The Equipment Specifications and Certification Committee, acting for and on behalf of the USBC Board, are authorized to have final authority to alter or change specifications. All proposed amendments to certification regulations or measurement specifications must be submitted in writing to USBC Headquarters.

Membership Meetings

With the exception of affiliate status associations, the local association is required to hold at least one membership meeting each season.

At a membership meeting, elective positions are filled according to the provisions of Article V of the local association bylaws.

The meeting is open to the entire membership of the association and is under the direction of the board. All regular business is considered at the meeting.

The president may call other membership meetings as deemed necessary, but shall call a meeting of the association upon written request of at least three board members or at least 25 members of the association.

The association manager forwards a written notice of all membership meetings to each league secretary and the association board. All notices should be forwarded to the league secretaries and association board at least 15 days in advance of the meeting. The league secretary shall notify the members of the league.



Chapter 2: General Playing Rules

Rule 1 – USBC Certification

Leagues and tournaments must be organized and bowled in accordance with USBC Bylaws, rules and regulations. These events must be scheduled on lanes that currently are USBC certified and only USBC approved equipment may be used.

Rule 2 – The Game

2a. Definition

A game of American tenpins consists of ten frames. A player delivers two balls in each of the first nine frames unless a strike is scored. In the 10th frame, a player delivers three balls if a strike or spare is scored. Every frame must be completed by each player bowling in regular order.

2b. How Scored

Except when a strike is scored, the number of pins knocked down by the player's first delivery is to be marked next to the small square in the upper right-hand corner of that frame, and the number of pins knocked down by the player's second delivery is to be marked inside the small square. If none of the standing pins are knocked down by the second delivery in a frame, the scoresheet shall be marked with a (-). The count for the two deliveries in the frame shall be recorded immediately.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10											
	X		X		X	7	2	8	/	F	9		X	7	/	9	-	X	X	8
	30		57		76		85		95		104		124		143		152		180	

2c. Strike

A strike is made when the full setup of 10 pins is knocked down with the first delivery in a frame. It is marked by an (x) in the small square in the upper right-hand corner of the frame where it was made. The count for one strike is 10 plus the number of pins knocked down on the player's next two deliveries.

2d. Double

Two consecutive strikes is a double. The count for the first strike is 20 plus the number of pins knocked down with the first delivery following the second strike.

2e. Triple or Turkey

Three successive strikes is a triple or turkey. The count for the first strike is 30. To bowl the maximum score of 300, the player must bowl 12 strikes in succession.



2f. Spare

A spare is scored when pins left standing after the first delivery are knocked down with the second delivery in that frame. It is marked by a (/) in the small square in the upper right-hand corner of the frame. The count for a spare is 10 plus the number of pins knocked down by the player's next delivery.

2g. Open

An open is recorded when a player fails to knock down all 10 pins after two deliveries in a frame.

2h. Split

A split is a setup of pins left standing after the first delivery, provided the head pin is down and at least one pin is down:

1. Between two or more standing pins; i.e., 7-9 or 3-10.
2. Immediately ahead of two or more standing pins; i.e., 5-6.

NOTE: A split is usually designated by a (0), but any other symbol may be used.

Rule 3 – Baker System

The Baker System is a modified format consisting of teams of two or more bowlers. (See Rule 100a.)

- a. All team members follow each other in order, each bowling a complete frame, until a complete game is bowled.
- b. Ten frames are combined to calculate a team game.

Rule 4 – Delivering the Ball

4a. Legal Delivery

A delivery is made when the ball leaves the player's possession and crosses the foul line into playing territory. Every delivery counts unless a dead ball is declared. (See Rule 8.) A delivery must be made entirely by manual means. No device may be incorporated in or affixed to the ball that detaches on delivery or is a moving part during delivery except as provided in Rules 4b and 4c.

4b. Special Equipment to Grip the Ball

A player may use special equipment to aid in grasping and delivering the ball if it is in place of a hand, or major portion thereof, lost by amputation or otherwise.

4c. Mechanical Aids to Grip the Ball — Alternating Delivery

A player may, if granted permission by USBC Headquarters and each league or tournament in which the player participates, alternate right/left-handed delivery and/or use special equipment to aid in grasping and delivering the ball.

1. The aid cannot incorporate a mechanical device with moving parts that would impart force or impetus to the ball.



2. Permission may be granted if the following is submitted to USBC Headquarters:
 - a. A doctor's certificate describing the disability and the reason to alternate right/left-handed delivery and/or recommending the aid.
 - b. A description, drawing or model of the aid (only for mechanical aid).

When authorization is given, USBC Headquarters will provide the player with a special card stating that alternating right/left-handed delivery and/or the use of the specified mechanical aid has been approved. If permission is denied, the player has the right of appeal to the USBC Legal Committee. Permission may be withdrawn for cause.

A Resolution, adopted March 19, 2004 and May 4, 2004, allows USBC to grant permission to individuals with physical disabilities, who can not impart force or impetus to a ball, to use a mechanical device with moving parts.

These individuals must provide a description of the device and evidence that the use of the particular device is necessary to participate.

Individuals must receive permission from USBC to use such devices, and must also receive permission from each league or tournament prior to participation.

This resolution is effective through July 31, 2008.

4d. Special Considerations to Deliver the Ball

A player unable to execute a delivery in accordance with any of the foregoing procedures may bowl in USBC competition provided:

1. The league's board of directors or tournament management authorizes such participation.
2. The league's board of directors or tournament management establishes specific provisions to govern such participation.

The average established by the player is not acceptable in another league or tournament unless allowed by the rules of that league or tournament. The bowler is eligible for all USBC awards.

4e. Tournament Average Relief

Relief of an average, due to injury or disability, for entry into a tournament must be approved by USBC Headquarters in accordance with the following:

1. A player who has become injured or disabled may request relief of his/her USBC average by providing the following information to USBC Headquarters:
 - a. A doctor's certificate describing the:
 - 1) Disability or injury.
 - 2) Length of disability or injury.
 - 3) Reason for a downward average adjustment.



- b. Current standing sheet and weekly bowler's history from each USBC certified league in which the player is participating.
2. If authorization is granted, USBC will notify the player:
 - a. The minimum average a tournament may assign the player.
 - b. The time limit for the relief.
3. Tournament Management may, prior to participation:
 - a. Accept the bowler's highest current USBC certified league average, provided it meets or exceeds the minimum established by USBC.
 - b. Assign the bowler an average that meets or exceeds the minimum established by USBC.
 - c. Deny the relief and require the bowler to use the average as stated in tournament rules.

Permission may be withdrawn for cause.

Rule 5 - Fouls

5a. Definition

A foul occurs when a part of the player's body encroaches on or goes beyond the foul line and touches any part of the lane, equipment or building during or after a delivery. A ball is in play after a delivery until the same or another player is on the approach in position to make a succeeding delivery.

The certification and inspection committee of a local association can require that the foul line be plainly marked on the walls, posts, division boards or any other structure in a bowling center on a line with the regular foul line.

When a foul is recorded the delivery counts, but the player is not credited with any pins knocked down by that delivery. (See Rule 6b.)

NOTE: The foul line is of infinite length including walls, flooring, posts and ball returns. A foul is not committed when foreign objects such as pens, jewelry, coins, cigarettes, etc., drop from a bowler's pocket or fall from a person's body or clothing. (Footwear and clothing are considered part of the body.) A player should request permission to cross the foul line to retrieve any items that have fallen beyond the foul line.

5a/1 What happens when there is a dispute over a foul call?

According to Rule 10, a provisional ball should be thrown when there is a controversy. A provisional ball or frame shall be bowled when a protest involving a foul, cannot be resolved by the two team captains. When a dispute over a foul occurs, the player shall complete the frame and then bowl one provisional ball. The score sheet or printout and a record of both scores for the frame in which the provisional delivery is made, shall be kept. The protest must be referred to the league's board of directors for a decision.

5a/2 A player goes over the foul line while retaining possession of the ball. Is this considered a foul?

No, a legal delivery must be executed for a foul to be committed. A legal delivery is made when the ball leaves the player's possession and crosses the foul line into playing territory.



5a/3 A member of a team crosses onto an adjacent approach when making a delivery. Is this considered a foul?

A foul is not called when a bowler crosses onto an adjoining approach area. However, if the bowler steps over the foul line on that lane, it is considered a foul.

5a/4 Is a foul called when the ball rolls over the foul line during delivery and the foul detector is activated?

The bowling ball is not considered a part of the bowler's body. If the bowler did not step on or go beyond the foul line, a foul is not recorded.

5b. Deliberate

When a player deliberately fouls to benefit by the calling of a foul, the player shall be credited with zero pinfall for that delivery and not allowed further deliveries in that frame. If questions arise, Rule 10, Provisional Ball, should be followed.

5c. Foul Detection

A USBC approved automatic foul detecting device must be used, if available. When not available or temporarily inoperative, the following procedures shall be used to call fouls:

1. In tournament play, management shall assign a foul judge or have the official scorers call fouls.
2. In league play, the opposing team captains shall call fouls or a foul judge shall be appointed.

Failure to provide for the calling of fouls as specified shall disqualify scores bowled for USBC high score award consideration.

5c/1 What happens if our foul lights are not available?

If not available the opposing captains call fouls or designate someone to act as a foul judge. Under these circumstances, members of the league should be advised the captains are responsible for the calling of fouls or they are to designate someone to act as a foul judge.

5d. Apparent

A foul shall be declared and recorded if the automatic foul detecting device or foul judge fails to call a foul that is apparent to:

1. both captains, or one or more members of each of the opposing teams, or
2. the official scorer, or
3. a tournament official.

If there is a dispute, refer to Rule 10, Provisional Ball.



Rule 6 – Pinfall

6a. Legal Pinfall

Pins to be credited to a player following a legal delivery shall include:

1. Pins knocked down or off the lane surface by the ball or another pin.
2. Pins knocked down or off the lane surface by a pin rebounding from a side partition or rear cushion.
3. Pins knocked down or off the lane surface by a pin rebounding from the sweep bar when it is at rest on the pin deck before sweeping dead wood from the pin deck.
4. Pins that lean and touch the kickback or side partition. All such pins are termed dead wood and must be removed before the next delivery.

No pins may be conceded, and only pins actually knocked down or moved entirely off the playing area of the lane surface as a result of a legal delivery may be counted.

6b. Illegal Pinfall

When any of the following occur, the delivery counts but the resulting pinfall does not:

1. A ball leaves the lane before reaching the pins.
2. A ball rebounds from the rear cushion.
3. A pin rebounds after coming in contact with the body, arms or legs of a human pinsetter.
4. A pin is touched by mechanical pinsetting equipment.
5. Any pin knocked down when dead wood is being removed.
6. Any pin knocked down by a human pinsetter.
7. The player commits a foul.
8. A delivery is made with dead wood on the lane or in the gutter and the ball contacts such dead wood before leaving the lane surface.
9. A delivery is made with dead wood on the lane or in the gutter, and a pin, after coming into contact with the dead wood, knocks down one or more pins.

If an illegal pinfall occurs and the player is entitled to additional deliveries in the frame, the pin(s) illegally knocked down must be respotted where it (they) originally stood before delivery of the ball.

Rule 7 – Pins

7a. Improperly Set

It is each player's responsibility to determine if a setup is correct. The player shall insist that any pin(s) incorrectly set be respotted before delivering the ball, otherwise the setup is deemed to be acceptable.

When bowling at a full setup or to make a spare, if it is discovered immediately after the delivery that one or more pins are set improperly, but not missing, the delivery and resulting pinfall count.



No change can be made in the position of any pin(s) left standing after the bowler's first delivery, unless:

1. The pinsetter moved or misplaced any pin(s), or;
2. Any standing pin(s) is (are) outside the range of the sweep bar.

Any such pin(s) will be respotted where it (they) originally stood before the delivery.

7b. Rebounding

Pins that rebound and stand on the lane must be counted as standing pins.

7c. Replacement

Should a pin be broken or otherwise badly damaged during the game, it shall be replaced at once by another pin as nearly uniform in weight and condition with the set in use. The league or tournament officials shall determine whether pins shall be replaced.

A broken pin does not change the score made by the bowler. The pins knocked down are counted, after which the broken pin is replaced.

Rule 8 – Dead Ball

When a dead ball is called, the delivery does not count and the correct pins must be respotted. The player is allowed to rebowl that delivery.

A ball shall be declared dead if any of the following occur:

- a. After a delivery, attention is immediately called to the fact that one or more pins were missing from the setup.
- b. A human pinsetter interferes with any standing pin before the ball reaches the pins.
- c. A human pinsetter removes or interferes with any downed pin before it stops rolling.
- d. A player bowls on the wrong lane or out of turn, or one player from each team on the pair of lanes bowls on the wrong lane.
- e. A player has physical contact with another person or moving object as the ball is being delivered and before delivery is completed. In such case, the player has the option to accept the resulting pinfall or have a dead ball called.
- f. Any pin is moved or knocked down as a player delivers the ball but before the ball reaches the pins.
- g. A delivered ball comes in contact with a foreign obstacle.

8/1 If an individual bowls out of turn does the delivery count?

No, according to Rule 8, Item d, a dead ball would be declared and the correct bowler is then required to continue play.
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8/2 A player made the first delivery when the pinsetting machine was set on the second cycle. Seven pins were knocked down and the remaining pins were swept away as the machine reverted to cycle one. Should a dead ball have been declared and the pins reset?

Since the bowler made a legal delivery and the pins were properly set, there would be no basis for declaring the first delivery a dead ball. The three pins left standing would be reset for a second delivery in accordance with Rule 6b.

8/3 On the second delivery, the sweep bar comes down and deflects the ball before it can make contact with the remaining pins. When this happens, what should we do?

According to Rule 8, Item g, a dead ball is declared when a player's ball comes in contact with any foreign obstacle. The sweep bar is considered a foreign obstacle, and the player is required to have the pin(s) remaining respotted and rebowl the second ball.

Rule 9 – Bowling on Wrong Lane

In league or tournament play, a dead ball shall be called and the player or players required to rebowl on the correct lane when:

- a. One player bowls on the wrong lane.
- b. One player from each team on the pair of lanes bowls on the wrong lane.

If more than one player on the same team bowls on the wrong lane in turn, all deliveries stand as bowled. Upon discovery, bowlers shall complete subsequent frames on the correct lanes.

In singles match play competition, where a player normally bowls two frames each time it is the player's turn to bowl, and the player bowls on the wrong lanes, a dead ball shall be called and the player required to rebowl on the correct lanes, providing the error was discovered before the opposing player has made a delivery. Otherwise, the score stands as bowled, with all subsequent frames in the game bowled on the correct lanes.

Rule 10 – Provisional Ball

A provisional ball or frame shall be bowled when a protest involving a foul, legal pinfall or a dead ball is made and cannot be resolved by the two team captains or a tournament official.

The following procedures apply when a dispute occurs:

- a. For the first ball of any frame, or after the second ball in the 10th frame if the first ball was a strike:
 1. Foul: The player shall complete the frame and then bowl one provisional ball at a full setup of pins.
 2. Illegal Pinfall: The player shall complete the frame and then bowl one provisional ball at the same setup which would have remained standing had the disputed pin(s) not have fallen.
 3. Dead Ball: The player shall complete the frame and then bowl a complete provisional frame.



- b. On a spare attempt or the third ball of the 10th frame:
1. Foul and Illegal Pinfall: No provisional ball is necessary.
 2. Dead Ball: A provisional ball shall be bowled at the same setup which was standing when the disputed ball was bowled.

The scoresheet and a record of both scores for the frame in which the provisional delivery was made shall be kept. The protest must be referred to the league's board of directors or tournament management for a decision. If they are unable to make a decision, the local association or USBC can be asked for a decision on submission of the facts relating to the protest.

Rule 11 – Forfeit – Delay of Game

No unreasonable delay in the progress of any game is permitted. If a player or team in a league or tournament refuses to proceed with a game after being directed to do so by a league or tournament official, the game or series shall be declared forfeited.

Rule 12 – Approaches Must Not Be Defaced

The application of any foreign substance on any part of the approach that detracts from the possibility of other players having normal conditions is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to talcum powder, pumice and resin on shoes, and/or soft rubber soles or heels that rub off on the approach.

12/1

One of the bowlers is having a difficult time sliding on the approach and applies a commercial product purchased at the center pro shop to the bottom of his/her shoes. The product is designed to help a bowler slide. The secretary says she has received a complaint from the opposing team and notifies the individual to stop using the substance or the game will be forfeited. Can an officer tell a bowler to stop using the substance and declare the game forfeited?

Commercial products, talcum powder or any substance applied to the shoe or approach could be in violation of Rule 12. If a league participant uses a substance and somebody complains that it prohibits him/her from having normal conditions, the league officer should require the individual to immediately stop his/her action. If the individual refuses, his/her games are subject to forfeiture.

Rule 13 - Parental Consent

Unmarried grade school and high school students under the age of 18 must have written consent of a parent or guardian before participating in any USBC league or tournament where any participant is awarded cash, bonds, gift certificates or merchandise prizes.

Such consent must be on file with the league secretary or tournament manager at least one week before participation when the youth is unaccompanied by a parent or guardian. If the youth is accompanied by his/her parent or guardian the form must be submitted prior to his/her participation. Failure to file the consent form will cause the player to be ineligible and subject games bowled to forfeiture or disqualification.



The consent shall be given in the following form:

I, _____, am the parent or legal guardian of _____, an unmarried grade school or high school student under the age of 18. By signing this form I am authorizing my child to bowl or substitute in the _____ (competition's name), a league/tournament that offers merchandise over \$500, cash or bonds.

I verify I have read and reviewed USBC Rule 400 (see below) and understand the competition I have authorized my child to participate in violates the rule jeopardizing his/her USBC Youth eligibility.

I recognize that by bowling or substituting in competition which violates Rule 400, his/her amateur status may be jeopardized. I understand that to ensure compliance with high school and collegiate rules I should check with a compliance officer and/or academic counselor at his/her school.

Parental Signature: _____ Date: _____

Rule 400: Youth Membership Eligibility

- A. Except as provided in Item B, a youth may not bowl, substitute or pace in any bowling activity which offers any of the following as prizes:
1. Cash or bonds.
 2. Merchandise exceeding \$500 in value.
- B. Youth may bowl in singles competitions (including side competitions/brackets) offering such prizes, provided, prior to bowling:
1. The competition agrees to award the youth's prize in the form of a scholarship; or
 2. The youth signs a form waiving his/her rights to any prize in violation of this rule.

In youth competition, youth members may participate in side competitions/brackets provided all entries are returned 100% in the form of scholarships only and awards comply with Item A above.

Buying or selling of earned prizes is prohibited.

Any youth bowler deemed in violation of this rule is subject to disciplinary action including the potential loss of youth membership.

NOTE: There are no limits on scholarship amounts or entry fees (must be paid directly to the tournament director/manager) and reimbursement of actual travel expenses into the next higher level of competition or any tournament or event. (Receipts must be provided upon request.)

The prizes authorized by a state high school athletic association or a collegiate athletic association recognized by USBC and USBC Collegiate are not subject to the limitations of this rule.



Rule 14 – Supplemental Fees

No member of USBC shall participate or be involved in the operation of a scheme or arrangement requiring a supplemental fee of any type or character for the purpose of having any part or all of a player's score in USBC league or tournament play qualify for a prize where competing entrants bowl in different bowling centers, except as follows:

- a. Mail-o-graphic league.
- b. Mail-o-graphic tournament.
- c. League scores may be used to determine prize winners in a supplementary contest when the following conditions are observed:
 1. A minimum of two-thirds of the gross collected as entry fees must be donated to a recognized charitable organization.
 2. Entry is made available to all bowlers in a single local association and its metropolitan area.
 3. Operating costs shall not exceed 10 percent of entry fee.

Penalty: Membership may be suspended or denied to anyone who is a participant or involved in a violation of this rule.

Rule 15 - Gambling

A member of USBC, while bowling in USBC competition, shall not participate or be involved in the operation of any gambling scheme which is in violation of any applicable law, where all or part of a score bowled in USBC play determines the winner.

Contests or schemes which threaten the integrity of the game and/or entice a player to bowl beneath his/her ability are strictly prohibited.

Membership may be suspended or denied to anyone who is a participant or involved in the violation of this rule.

NOTE: Side competitions/brackets in leagues/tournaments where the participating bowlers pay a fee, optional or otherwise, and receive prizes for high game and/or series, with or without handicap, do not violate the rule because these involve merit pinfall based solely on the skill of the participant.

Rule 16 - Suspended Bowler Ineligible

A suspended bowler or a bowler who has been denied USBC or CTF membership is ineligible to bowl, pace or hold office in any USBC league or tournament until reinstated.

Penalty: When a team:

1. Unknowingly uses a suspended bowler, games are subject to forfeiture in accordance with Rule 119.



2. Knowingly uses a suspended bowler, it shall forfeit all games in which the suspended player was used and all involved are subject to suspension.

Rule 17 – Grounds for Disciplinary Action

NOTE: A complaint may be filed only in the current season or the season immediately following the alleged violation. The complaint shall be in writing and detail the charges against the member(s) and the USBC rule(s) involved. The complaint shall be signed by the person(s) making the charges and filed with USBC Headquarters.

17a. Unfair Tactics

An individual can be charged with attempting to gain an unfair advantage in league or tournament play for the following reasons:

1. Directly or indirectly tampering with lanes, pins or bowling balls so they no longer meet USBC specifications.
2. Misrepresenting an average to gain a greater handicap, or qualify for a lower classification in an event.
3. Establishing an average below the player's ability to gain an unfair advantage in handicap or classified competition.

Penalty: Loss of games, prize winnings, league removal (see Rule 115a or 115c), and subject to suspension from or denial of USBC membership.

17b. Improper Conduct

An individual can also be charged with the following violation(s):

1. Engaging in improper tactics or conduct in connection with the game of bowling including, but not limited to, physical and verbal abuse toward other persons.
2. Failing to distribute prize money to team members consistent with verbal or written agreements.
3. Failing to pay fees due for participation in a USBC league or tournament. (See Rule 115b for league procedures to suspend an individual for nonpayment of league fees.)
4. Misusing/mishandling/misappropriation of any funds held in trust by an officer of a USBC league, an adult supervisor or coach of a youth league, or a board member of a chartered USBC local or state association.
5. Misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance of office.
 - Misfeasance – The performance of a lawful action in an illegal or improper manner.
 - Malfeasance – Wrongdoing or misconduct.
 - Nonfeasance – Failure to act, especially failure to do what should be done.

Penalty: Membership may be suspended or denied to anyone who is involved in a violation of this rule. Leagues may also remove the individual following the provisions in Rule 115a or 115c.



Rule 17c. Improper Conduct by Adult Leader

An adult leader, while involved in youth activities, can be charged with improper conduct which is not in the best interest of youth bowling including, but not limited to the following:

1. Using tobacco products, illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages.
2. Using foul language or gestures.
3. Wearing clothing depicting foul language or gestures.

An adult leader includes any individual acting in an official capacity during a youth activity including, but not limited to the following: league supervisors, league officials, tournament managers, league coordinators, in-state instructors, certified coaches, youth directors or designated coaches having leadership in prescribed areas of youth involvement.

Penalty: Membership may be suspended or denied to anyone who is involved in a violation of this rule.

17d. Youth Conduct

Individuals holding youth membership can be removed from competition/functions and/or suspended/denied membership for the following:

1. Conduct derogatory to the best interest of youth bowling including, but not limited to, the following in conjunction with youth competition and functions:
 - a. Using tobacco products, illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages.
 - b. Using foul language or gestures.
 - c. Wearing clothing depicting foul language or gestures.
2. Prior adjudication of delinquency or conviction of a crime including, but not limited to, crimes involving physical or mental abuse or sexual assault.

17e. Infractions of Rule 400 – Youth Membership Eligibility

Upon witnessing, or being informed of an infraction, the adult leader shall do the following:

1. Explain to the youth bowler:
 - a. How they violated Rule 400 and that youth membership could be suspended or denied because of the violation.
 - b. They must stop bowling in the activity immediately.
 - c. Any cash or awards received in violation of Rule 400 must be returned.
 - d. The violation will be documented with USBC Headquarters.
2. File a written report to USBC Headquarters. The report should be filed within seven days of contacting the youth bowler and include:
 - a. Bowler's name, address and birthdate.
 - b. Date and location of activity.
 - c. How they violated Rule 400.
 - d. List any cash or awards received in violation of Rule 400 and/or returned.

The individual's membership status remains unchanged until a decision is made by USBC Headquarters.



17f. Using Assumed Name

No person shall bowl under an assumed name or under the name of another person scheduled to bowl in a USBC league or tournament.

Penalty: Forfeiture of games in which the player was used and all found to be involved are subject to suspension.

Rule 18 – Bowling Ball – Altering Surface

Altering the surface of a bowling ball by the use of abrasives while bowling in USBC competition is prohibited.

All bowling balls so altered must be removed from the competition. (See Chapter 7, Section 2, for additional information.)

NOTE: If it is shown the bowler had prior knowledge his/her actions were in violation of Rule 18, the game(s) in which the violation occurred is (are) subject to forfeiture. In addition, the bowler is subject to dismissal from the league and suspension of membership.

Competition is defined as the remainder of the current game and remaining game(s) in the series being bowled.

The use of approved cleaning agents such as isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and polishing machines is permissible.

18/1 When can an acceptable cleaner be used on a bowling ball?

Unless otherwise provided by league or tournament rule, cleaners designated as acceptable by USBC standards can be used on bowling balls at any time during USBC competition. For a complete list of acceptable cleaning agents see the Specifications and Certification section on www.bowl.com.

18/2 Can abrasives be used during certified competition?

The outer surface of any bowling ball cannot be altered with an abrasive after the start of competition. This includes balls that have not yet been introduced into play.

Further, the start of competition is defined as the point the first ball is thrown by any participant for score. This would allow a bowler to alter the outer surface of a ball during practice and not be in violation of Rule 18.

18/3 A tournament consists of doubles and singles events. The singles event is bowled first immediately followed by the doubles. Can I sand my bowling ball between events?

No, Rule 18 does not allow the outer surface of any bowling ball to be altered with an abrasive after the start of competition. This includes balls that have not yet been introduced into play.

The start of competition is defined as the point the first ball is thrown by any participant for score. Since the tournament is conducting singles and doubles concurrently, you cannot alter the surface of the bowling ball (including sanding) between events.



Chapter 3: Awards

Rule 50. Eligibility

USBC will recognize the achievements listed in this chapter bowled by USBC members participating in USBC leagues and tournaments. To qualify for recognition all provisions of the USBC Bylaws, specifications and rules must have been complied with at the time the score was bowled. (See Rules 100a and 300b.) USBC High Score Awards designated with an (*) cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed. Scores are determined on a scratch basis.

Rule 51a. Single Game Awards

For average requirements on average based awards, see Rule 53.

1. A member is eligible for one award in each of the following categories during a fiscal year (August 1- July 31):
 - a. 300*
 - b. 250 to 299 with a 170 average or below
 - c. 200 to 249 with a 160 average or below
 - d. 180 to 199 with a 140 average or below
 - e. 160 to 179 with a 120 average or below
 - f. 140 to 159 with a 100 average or below
 - g. 120 to 139 with a 90 average or below
 - h. 100 to 119 with a 70 average or below
 - i. 80 to 99 with a 50 average or below
 - j. Eleven (11) strikes in a row when the score is 299 or less*
 - k. 100 pins over game average
 - l. 75 pins over game average
2. A bowler qualifying for 75 and 100 pins over average recognition for a single game, is only eligible to receive the 100 pins over average recognition award unless they have already earned the award. In that case, the bowler will receive the 75 pins over average award unless they have already earned that award.
3. Where a choice of awards is available in any category the member is entitled to a choice of an award for the first score recorded. Any additional score in the same category that fiscal year will be officially recognized by USBC, but will not qualify for an award.

Rule 51b. Series Awards

Three consecutive games must be bowled in league or tournament play to qualify for series awards. For average requirements on average based awards, see Rule 53.

1. A series shall be figured as follows:
 - a. If more than three but less than six games are bowled, use the first three games.
 - b. If six or more games are bowled, use each succeeding set of three games following the first three games.



2. In tournament play, each three-game series must be bowled in the same block.
3. A series of games can be bowled consecutively against one or more opponents.
4. Games must be bowled on the same date.
5. A member is eligible for one award in each of the following three-game series categories during a fiscal year (August 1-July 31):
 - a. 900 series*
 - b. 800 to 899*
 - c. 700 to 799 with a 210 average or below
 - d. 600 to 699 with a 175 average or below
 - e. 500 to 599 with a 140 average or below
 - f. 400 to 499 with a 115 average or below
 - g. 300 to 399 with a 90 average or below
 - h. 200 to 299 with a 50 average or below
 - i. 140 pins over series average
6. Where a choice of awards is available in any category the member is entitled to a choice of an award for the first score recorded. Any additional score in the same category that fiscal year will be officially recognized by USBC, but will not qualify for an award.

Rule 51c. National Team High Game and Series*

During each fiscal year, an award will be issued by USBC to each member of the team who bowls the highest scratch score in the nation in each of the following classifications:

<u>Men Only Teams</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Series</u>
5-player	1325	3700
4-player	1050	2900
3-player	825	2250
2-player	550	1550

<u>Mixed Teams</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Series</u>
5-player	1250	3600
4-player	1000	2800
3-player	750	2200
2-player	525	1500

<u>Women Only Teams</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Series</u>
5-player	1175	3425
4-player	950	2750
3-player	725	2075
2-player	500	1350

(*) cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.



Youth teams:

To determine which age group, use the age of the oldest bowler.

	2-Player		3-Player		4-Player		5-Player	
	Game	Series	Game	Series	Game	Series	Game	Series
8 and under	140	420	210	630	280	840	350	1050
9 - 11	200	600	300	900	400	1200	500	1500
12 - 14	260	780	390	1170	520	1560	650	1950
15 - 18	350	1050	525	1575	700	2100	875	2625
19 - 22	420	1260	630	1890	840	2520	1050	3150

Rule 51d. Baker 300 Game Award*

All teams utilizing the Baker System that bowl a game of 300 are eligible to receive a sponsor’s award. Each team is eligible for one award during the fiscal year.

Rule 51e. Reporting Procedures

Scores of 300 game; 800 series or better by an individual in a three-game series; a Baker team game of 300; or a qualifying National Team High Game or Series, must be reported.

1. The following procedures apply for reporting such scores:
 - a. The league or tournament secretary shall notify the local association within 48 hours and submit a completed high score award application within 20 days.
 - b. The association manager shall submit a completed high score application to USBC Headquarters via WinLABS as soon as possible, but not more than 7 days after receipt.
2. If an award is not approved administratively, the applicant will be notified in writing explaining the reason(s) for denial. If within 15 days of receipt of the written notice the applicant files a written appeal, the claim will be submitted for final decision to USBC Headquarters.

NOTE: The above procedures are in effect until such time as a fourth decision of noncompliance occurs. At that time USBC will notify center management and league and tournament officials that when any of the above scores are bowled, the lanes must be inspected for compliance.

Rule 52a. Special Achievement Awards

USBC will recognize the following once per fiscal season:

1. 7-10 – Conversion of the 7-10 split.
2. Big Four Split – Conversion of the 4-6-7-10 split.
3. All Spare Game – Ten consecutive spares in a single game.
4. Dutch 200 Game – A game of alternating strikes and spares with a game total of 200.
5. Triplicate Series – Three consecutive games of the same score in a series.

() cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.*



Rule 52b. Merit Awards*

The highest average, single game and three-game series for a male, female, youth male and youth female in each local association will be issued a merit award under the following conditions:

1. The average, game or series was bowled by a member of the association in a USBC league or tournament within the jurisdiction of the association. The average must be based on a minimum of 66 games, and the winner of the award is decided on the percentage of a full pin.
2. The final average sheet, or the average sheet as of a date set by the association, is filed with the association.
3. The score was bowled between August 1 and July 31, except associations that publish an average book may adopt a specific date for determining award winners. Scores bowled after that date will be counted toward the next season's competition.
4. Duplicate awards shall be presented in case of ties.
5. Should the same member bowl the highest average, single game and three game total, the bowler will receive one award recognizing all achievements.
6. The single game merit award will not be issued in an association when a member, during the same season or within the dates set by the association, has bowled a 300 that has or will be recognized by USBC.
7. No claim will be considered if submitted more than 30 days after the close of the bowling season in which the score was bowled.

Rule 52c. National High Average

Each fiscal year, recognition will be given to the USBC male, female, youth male and youth female member having the highest USBC average, based on 66 or more games bowled as a USBC member in a USBC league.

1. Qualifying averages are reported to the local association on the final average sheet submitted to the association by the league secretary.
2. The association is to forward information concerning those members who have attained a qualifying average to USBC Headquarters.
3. To be eligible for recognition, all qualifying averages must be received by USBC Headquarters on or before September 1 of the next fiscal year.

Rule 52d. National High Series*

Each fiscal year, recognition will be given to the USBC male, female, youth male and youth female member having the highest USBC series bowled as a USBC member in a USBC league or tournament.

1. Reporting procedure:
 - a. Qualifying scores are reported to the local association by the league secretary or tournament management.
 - b. The association is to forward information concerning those members who have attained a qualifying score to USBC.
2. To be eligible for recognition, all qualifying scores must be received by USBC Headquarters on or before September 1 of the next fiscal year.
3. Games bowled while pre or post bowling unopposed are not eligible.

() cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.*



Rule 53. Average Based Awards – Qualifying Rules

The following applies to any award earned based on average:

- a. League:
 1. If 12 games or more have been bowled in the league in the current season, use the current average.
 2. If less than 12 games in the current season, use last season's final average for 21 games or more from the same league.
 3. For a new bowler in the league with less than 12 games, use last season's highest USBC average for 21 games or more in any USBC league.
 4. For a bowler who has not established an average in the preceding season, the highest USBC average of 21 games or more from the summer league just completed shall be used.
 5. In a summer league, when a bowler has not established an average in the preceding season, the highest USBC average of 21 games or more from the regular season just completed shall be used.
 6. A new bowler in a league who has not bowled 12 games in the current season can use a current USBC average of 12 games or more from another league.
 7. A bowler who does not have an acceptable USBC average for comparison is not eligible for recognition.
- b. Tournament:
 1. In handicap or classified tournaments, compare the score with the USBC average used in the tournament.
 2. In scratch tournaments:
 - a) Compare the score with the bowler's highest current USBC average of 12 games or more.
 - b) If less than 12 games in the current season, compare the score with the preceding season's highest USBC average for 21 games or more.
 - c) A bowler who does not have an acceptable USBC average for comparison is not eligible for recognition.

Rule 54a. Most Improved Bowler Award

Each league will be issued an award(s) annually based on the type of league to provide recognition for the male, female, youth male, and/or youth female member who shows the greatest improvement in average in the league during its season.

1. The award is to be given to the bowler who is eligible, regardless of how many league awards the bowler qualified for.
2. The following rules apply unless the league adopts its own rules to decide the award winner:
 - a. To qualify for the award, a member must bowl at least two-thirds of the games scheduled during the league's current season.
 - b. A bowler's increase in average is determined by comparing the bowler's final average for the current season with that bowler's final or book average of at least 21 games for the preceding season in the same league.
 - c. For a new member with an established average, compare the bowler's final average for the current season with that bowler's highest final or book average, based on at least 21 games, for the preceding season.



- d. For a bowler with no average for the preceding season, compare the bowler's final average for the current season with that bowler's average for the first 12 games during the current season.
- e. When two or more members have the same full pin increase, the winner of the award is decided on the basis of the percentage of a full pin.

Example:

	Starting Average (Use full pins only)	No. of Games	Total Pins	Current Season Final Average	Increase
<i>Jones</i>	170	90	15,810	175.666	5.666 *Winner
<i>Smith</i>	162	105	17,600	167.619	5.619

Rule 54b. League High Series

Each league will be issued awards annually based on the type of league to provide recognition for the male, female, youth male, and/or youth female member who bowls the highest series during the season.

1. The award is to be given to the bowler who is eligible, regardless of how many league awards they qualified for.
2. The following rules apply unless the league adopts its own rules to decide the award winner:
 - a. The USBC member must have bowled at least two-thirds of the games scheduled during the league's current season as a USBC member.
 - 1) If a substitute later becomes a regular member of the league, the games bowled as a substitute shall be included in the required number of games.
 - 2) The scores bowled as a substitute shall not qualify for this award.
 - b. Actual scores are to count in scratch leagues and for leagues using the team method of handicapping.
 - c. Handicap scores are to count in leagues using the individual method of handicapping.



Chapter 4: League Rules

Rule 100 - Leagues

100a. Qualifications

USBC will certify leagues participating in the game of American tenpins with the following provisions:

1. All leagues must meet the following requirements:
 - a. Apply for certification through the local association in whose jurisdiction it bowls.
 - b. Consist of four or more teams with the playing strength of one or more players per team as determined by league rule.
 - c. Bowl in accordance with a prearranged schedule based on the number of teams in the league.
 - d. Adopt rules and prize list (if any). (See Rules 103b and 122.)
 - e. All players seeking membership must be qualified under the bylaws of USBC. (See USBC Introduction, Chapter 1.)
 - f. Provide for the designation of a team champion by the games bowled in scheduled competition.
 - g. Govern themselves by USBC rules. Other rules may be added, but must not conflict with USBC rules.
2. Three consecutive games are to be bowled by each team every time the league is scheduled to bowl, unless another number of games has been established by league rule. To be considered official in league play, all games must be bowled and conducted in strict compliance with the playing rules.
3. A league is temporarily certified at the start of its current schedule for 30 days counting the first day of competition.
4. The league will be eligible for all membership services while temporarily certified provided the lanes on which it bowls are certified and its league application and membership fees are submitted on or before the end of the grace period.

100a/1 Is the bowling center required to provide an open lane(s) on either side of a league during league play?

USBC does not have a rule requiring open lanes be provided on either side of a league during league play. Whenever leagues have concerns regarding this issue, it is recommended the league officers, or a committee appointed by the league president, address the matter with center management.

100a/2 Can a 16-year-old bowl in a USBC Adult league?

Yes, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements set by the league. In addition, if they are an unmarried high school student, a parent or guardian is required to sign a Parental Consent Form as specified in Rule 13 of the Playing Rules book. This form cautions parents/guardians of the possible consequences if the youth bowls in a USBC league or tournament. A copy of the form is available on the Rules section of bowl.com.

However, bowling in adult leagues that violate USBC Rule 400 not only affects USBC youth membership, but also could jeopardize the student's ability to participate in high school and/or college sports. Participation could also jeopardize college scholarships earned. If your child is active in sports, we suggest that the athletic director at the high school be contacted before giving consent.



100b. Mixed

A mixed league is one in which both women and men participate. Teams may be composed of all women, all men or both women and men.

100c. Youth

A youth league is one in which all participants hold USBC Youth membership and complies with the Youth Membership Eligibility requirements of Rule 400. All youth leagues must govern themselves by USBC league rules.

1. Leagues shall be comprised of males and females, unless otherwise provided by league rule.
2. Leagues are organized by age division or ability as stated in the league rules.
3. The league shall be under the supervision of an adult league official/supervisor who shall operate the youth league in cooperation with the bowling center management and the league's board of directors, if applicable. (See Rule 103a.)
4. Scholarship Leagues: Leagues may offer scholarships as awards. If offered, the following procedures must be completed within 30 days following completion of the league schedule:
 - a. Provide the winners with information in writing on how to apply for funds.
 - b. Forward to USBC Headquarters:
 - 1) All scholarship funds awarded for deposit with the SMART program.
 - 2) A prize list with the name and score of each prize winner and the prize issued.
5. Moral Support Leagues
 - a. Types:
 - 1) Scholastic League – A Scholastic League is comprised of USBC Youth members and non-members who belong to a specific scholastic group. Scholastic league status will be issued provided:
 - a) Entry is limited to those affiliated with the organization conducting the league.
 - b) A group has an athletic association restriction. (When there is no restriction, the league cannot be a scholastic league.)
 - c) Anyone under suspension from, or who has been refused membership in USBC or CTF, will not be allowed to participate.
 - 2) Fraternal League – A Fraternal League is comprised of USBC Youth members and non-members who belong to a specific national youth organization. Fraternal league status will be issued provided:
 - a) Entry is limited to those affiliated with the organization conducting the league.
 - b) The national youth organization has 501(C)(3) status.
 - c) Anyone under suspension from, or who has been refused membership in USBC or CTF, will not be allowed to participate.
 - b. Permission – The following must be forwarded to USBC Headquarters, Attention: Membership.
 - 1) Moral Support League form, which can be obtained by contacting the Rules Department.
 - 2) For Scholastic Leagues, a copy of the athletic association rules stating the restriction that its members are prohibited from being mandated to obtain other membership.
 - 3) For Fraternal Leagues, a copy of the 501(C)(3) letter of determination.



USBC Youth members may participate in moral support leagues with award recognition automatically extended. Prior to participation, eligible non-members may qualify for USBC award recognition by purchasing USBC Youth membership and paying the applicable USBC, state and local association dues.

100d. Adult/Youth

An adult/youth league is one in which youth members bowl with adults in leagues where no cash, bonds, gift certificates or merchandise prizes are offered. Awards to youth bowlers must conform to awards permitted under the USBC Youth Membership Eligibility Rule 400. Adults can receive individual adult awards. Scores for adults and youths cannot be combined for any USBC national, state or local awards.

NOTE: Any form of gambling by adult members may jeopardize USBC Youth membership, eligibility and/or amateur standing.

100d/1 **May the adults in the league smoke or drink alcohol?**

Although USBC prefers that other adults participating in the league refrain from smoking or drinking only the officer must abide by Rule 17c, Item 1, which prohibits the use of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages while involved in youth activities. For other adults it is up to the center to set a more comprehensive rule or policy.

100e. Traveling

A league scheduled to bowl in more than one bowling center is a traveling league. Traveling leagues shall be governed by the following:

1. In traveling leagues bowling in more than one association, the league application shall be filed through the association decided upon by:
 - a. **Adult leagues:** A majority vote of the team captains.
 - b. **Youth leagues:** The league supervisor.
2. Players in a traveling league are required to join the association through which the league is affiliated if they have not already applied for a current season's membership through another association.
3. Final averages shall be submitted to the association through which the league is affiliated.
4. A traveling league which includes international competition and bowls a portion of its schedule in certified centers as well as centers outside the jurisdiction of USBC shall be eligible to apply for certification subject to the following:
 - a. Govern themselves by all USBC general playing and league rules.
 - b. High score award and average recognition shall be provided for scores bowled in USBC certified centers.
 - c. Only players whose home lanes are within USBC jurisdiction would be required to obtain USBC membership.

100f. Closed

A closed league is one in which membership is drawn exclusively from religious, fraternal, civic, employment, military or similar local organizations having a common interest. USBC league rules shall apply to all USBC closed leagues, in addition to the following:



1. Membership is shared within the league. Bowlers from a closed USBC league bowling in other USBC leagues must hold individual membership.
2. All questions of eligibility shall be decided by USBC.

100g. Handicap

A handicap league is one in which handicap is added to a bowler's score to place bowlers and teams with varying degrees of skill on as equitable a basis as possible for scheduled competition. USBC league rules shall apply to all USBC handicap leagues, in addition to the following:

1. The percentage shall be 100 percent, unless otherwise provided by league rule.
2. When the rules are adopted, each handicap league shall decide whether the individual or team method of handicapping will be used.
3. Handicap shall be figured according to the following:
 - a. **Adult leagues:** From the average of each bowler as provided by league rule.
 - b. **Youth leagues:** Unless otherwise provided by league rule, the first session handicap shall be figured after the current average has been established. Thereafter, handicap will be figured on the current average.
4. Handicap shall not be limited, unless otherwise provided by league rule.
5. The combined current average of each of the players bowling on a team shall be the team average.
6. When figuring handicap or averages, fractions are to be dropped.

100h. Senior

A senior league is composed of participants who are 55 years of age or over. USBC league rules shall apply to all USBC senior leagues, in addition to the following:

1. Senior league bowlers are eligible for all USBC awards and services.
2. A senior league may, by rule, allow bowlers 50 years of age and older, and members' spouses under the age of 55 to compete in the league.

100i. Summer

A league that starts after March 15 and before August 1 is a summer league. USBC league rules shall apply to all USBC summer leagues, in addition to the following:

1. Members who have a valid current season membership are eligible to bowl in USBC summer leagues.
2. If the league schedule extends beyond October 1, every member of the league must be in possession of or provide proof of payment of the current season's membership fees in keeping with the provisions of Rule 101.

100j. Modified Format

USBC may certify league competition in which a modified game of American tenpins is played. All USBC equipment specifications shall apply to such competition, and all USBC league rules shall apply insofar as practical, in addition to the following:

1. Games bowled using the modified format shall not be included in averages established in league play for entry in standard American tenpin competition.



2. Only award scores bowled using the standard American Tenpin scoring system as described in Rule 2a qualify for USBC awards. Members are not eligible for any award based on his/her average.

NOTE: For types and descriptions of modified formats, see the *USBC League Operations Handbook*.

100k. Match Point

A match point league is one in which team position standings include individual match points. Match point leagues must follow these rules, unless the league has adopted a different procedure:

1. The team scheduled on the odd lane enters its lineup first.
2. No change may be made in the order of players in the lineup during a series. A substitute must take the replaced bowler's position in the lineup.
3. When bowling against an absentee or vacancy, to win the individual points the bowler must bowl at least his/her average less ten (10) pins, unless the league rules have stated another number.
4. If each team has the same number of absentees and/or vacancies, the players present must be placed in opposition to each other for individual matches and the winning team credited with the points for the absentees/vacancies.

If one of two teams has an absentee or vacancy and a player on the opposing team is unable to complete the series, any game in progress shall be completed with no change in the competing team's lineup. However, the lineup of the team that lost its player must be changed if necessary, to comply with the provision of Item 4 above for any subsequent game(s) in the series.

100k/1 If two opposing teams have an absent member, and one absent member shows up to bowl games 2 and 3, does the captain change the lineup by placing the bowler in a position where the player would have bowled if present for the first game?

No, the lineup stays the same. The player bowling games 2 and 3 bowls in the position the absentee score was used for game 1. According to the rule, no change may be made in the order of players in the lineup during a series, unless league rules state differently.

100l. Mail-o-Graphic

A mail-o-graphic league is one in which scores are submitted from separate or the same competition, bowling establishment or association and are compared to qualify for prizes in one common prize list. The following provisions apply to all USBC mail-o-graphic leagues:

1. All scores are submitted to the league secretary who enters the scores and determines team and/or individual standings.
2. All scores used must be from certified competition.
3. USBC will certify such leagues provided:
 - a. All USBC equipment specifications apply.
 - b. All rules for USBC leagues shall apply insofar as applicable.
 - c. Application must designate the league as a mail-o-graphic league.
4. Individuals are not required to join the association through which the league is certified if already a member through another association.



5. As the scores used in mail-o-graphic competition are already recognized in the certified competition in which they are actually bowled, they are not eligible for USBC national awards or average recognition.

100m. Managed Leagues

A managed league is one in which an individual, designated as the league manager, oversees the operation of the league. The following provisions apply to all USBC managed leagues:

1. A league is organized and designated as a managed league prior to the start of the league schedule. An existing league, not specified as a managed league the previous season, may designate itself as a managed league prior to the start of the league schedule by a two-thirds vote of the board of directors, unless the league elects to have its rules adopted by the membership.
2. Any USBC member may be a league manager and is responsible for the duties of secretary and treasurer as described in Rules 102e and 102f.
3. The league manager is considered an officer of the league and is bonded.
4. The manager has supervisory control of the technical operation of the league consistent with USBC rules, to include:
 - a. Creation and distribution of the league rules and schedule prior to the start of the season.
 - b. Enforcement of league and USBC rules.
 - c. Creation and distribution of the prize list by the fifth week of competition.
 - d. Decisions on all disputes, complaints or protests involving any USBC or league rules.
 - e. Decisions on the operation of the league when not in conflict with the league and/or USBC rules.

Decisions made by the league manager shall be final unless a protest or appeal is made within the provisions of Rule 119.

5. After the league schedule begins, a change in the league rules, schedule and prize list can only be made with the written consent of every team captain or designated representative.
6. The membership must elect a president and vice president who are responsible for his/her respective duties as outlined in Rules 102c, Item 6 and 102d.
7. The league manager shall notify the members or team captains of all league meetings and the following shall apply:
 - a. A quorum must be in attendance.
 - b. Absentee and proxy votes are not acceptable, and only members present are eligible to vote.
8. Rules 102a, Items 3 and 4; 103b, Item 1; 117a and 121 do not apply to managed leagues.

Rule 101 - Membership Fee Payment Requirements

To be eligible to bowl in a USBC league, a bowler must:

- a. Complete an individual membership application in each league the bowler participates in.
- b. Pay or show proof of payment of USBC dues and the required association membership fees in effect for the current season before:
 1. **Adult membership** – completion of the bowler's first series.
 2. **Youth membership** – the bowler's third session of competition.



Any team using a player who has not satisfied USBC membership eligibility requirements subjects the games in which the bowler participated to forfeiture.

101/1 A USBC youth member wants to join an adult league that has no cash prizes. Does the youth have to purchase an adult membership card?

The youth's current membership in USBC permits the youth to participate in any league in which he/she is eligible. If the league requires adult membership the youth would be responsible for paying all applicable local and state dues (USBC dues are only paid once per season). As a USBC Youth member, the youth must comply with the requirements of Rule 400 to maintain eligibility.

Rule 102 - League Officers

102a. Officers

This rule is waived in youth leagues where a majority of the membership is comprised of youths 13 years or younger.

Each league shall elect a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer each season and may elect a sergeant-at-arms. All officers are subject to the following:

1. The league's board of directors shall elect the officers unless the league rules vest this authority in the general league membership.
2. The elections shall be conducted at a meeting held before the distribution of league awards, unless the league's board of directors decides that they are to be held prior to the start of the league schedule.
3. All league officers must be members of USBC.
4. Only the offices of secretary and treasurer may be combined.
5. Two members of an immediate family cannot serve as president, treasurer or secretary-treasurer; or vice president and treasurer or secretary-treasurer of the same league or cosign for withdrawals from a league account.
6. Either league members or non-league members may hold league office. When the league requires an officer to be a league member, the board of directors shall decide whether the officer will be allowed to complete the term of office if no longer a league member.

Failure to perform any of the officer duties is cause for removal from office and/or suspension of membership.

102b. Vacancies in Office

A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the board of directors.

102c. Duties of the President

The president/league supervisor shall perform the following duties:

1. Preside at all league meetings.
2. Enforce all rules and regulations of the league.
3. Arrange to have an account set up in a recognized banking institution in the name of the league with the signatures of at least two officers required for all withdrawals.



4. Appoint a prize committee and an auditing committee, as well as any other committees needed during the season.
5. Arrange to have the prize committee submit one or more prize lists for consideration by the fifth week. (See Rule 117a.)
6. Personally verify the league's bank balance monthly.

In youth leagues that have a board, the president shall assist the league supervisor with the duties of the president.

NOTE: "Verify" means the president must not only determine the amount on deposit, but also do the arithmetic necessary to determine how much should be on deposit. If the account is found to be short, the president must report the shortage immediately to USBC Headquarters for possible action under the bonding insurance policy.

Audit Committee responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ★ Receipts: Verify the amount and date of deposits.
- ★ Disbursements: Review canceled checks and supporting documents to determine that expenditures are proper.

All checks must bear the signatures of two authorized cosigners. Checks should not be made out to cash. The checkbook should be reviewed to verify entries made and to reconcile the appropriate bank statements.

Review the financial statement prepared by the treasurer to insure it is a fair representation of the league's finances.

102d. Duties of the Vice President

In the absence of the president, the vice president shall perform the duties of the president.

102e. Duties of the Secretary

In addition to the duties specified by the board of directors, the secretary/league official shall:

1. Have every participant complete a membership card application and collect appropriate membership dues.
2. Forward the annual membership dues with completed league application and membership card applications to the local association manager(s) within 30 days after the league begins to bowl. Membership card applications and applicable fees for additional members shall also be forwarded to the local association manager(s) within 30 days of receipt.
3. Keep minutes of all league meetings, handle all league correspondence and notify the members or team captains of all league meetings.
4. Have a current standing sheet available for the members to see at each league session. The standing sheet shall contain the average, number of games and total pins for each member, and any scores eligible for special prizes the league issues.



5. Be responsible for a record of the scores bowled by all team members and substitutes, and report scores that are eligible for USBC, state and local association awards.
 - a. Submit a completed award application within 20 days.
 - b. Notify the local association manager or authorized representative within 48 hours of scores that are eligible for USBC honor score recognition.
6. Give each member of the board a copy of the league rules and prize list and see that the league schedule is either posted in the bowling center or given to each team captain.
7. Give a copy of the final standing sheet to the league treasurer so the awards can be distributed.
8. Turn over to the newly-elected officer all league records, such as minutes of meetings, copies of rules and prize lists, league property, etc.
9. Furnish a list of individual averages to the local association manager(s), when requested. The list must show the full names and ID numbers of all bowlers who competed in the league, the number of games bowled, total pinfall and average for each bowler.
10. On request of the local association or USBC, provide a list of names and addresses of the league officers; and the names of captains and members in the league.
11. Notify league members of all local association meetings and any proposed changes in local association dues.

In youth leagues that do have a board, the secretary shall assist the league official in the responsibilities of the league secretary.

NOTE: In leagues using a computer and/or average service, the elected secretary remains responsible for all the duties specified in Rule 102e.

102f. Duties of the Treasurer

The treasurer shall perform the following duties:

1. Establish a bank account in the name of the league with the signatures of at least two officers needed for withdrawals.
2. Arrange to have all league funds deposited within one week of receipt.
3. Be responsible for a complete accounting of all receipts and disbursements. On the request of the president or board, furnish a current financial statement to each team captain.
4. Distribute all prizes within 21 days after the end of the league schedule unless:
 - a. The board has set another time for distributing prizes, or
 - b. USBC has authorized holding up payment pending settlement of a claim or protest affecting prize distribution.
5. When the prizes are distributed, give each team captain and/or member a detailed financial statement, showing all income received on behalf of the league and an accounting of all money disbursed. The financial statement must also show the prizes distributed and list to whom they were awarded.
6. Turn over all financial records to the newly-elected officer upon election.
7. All financial records, whether in possession of the former officer or newly-elected officer, shall be retained for at least 120 days following completion of the league schedule.



In youth leagues that do have a board, the treasurer shall assist the league official in the duties of the treasurer.

NOTE: In leagues using in-house banking services, the elected treasurer remains responsible for all the duties specified in Rule 102f.

The treasurer must be eligible under the bonding requirements.

102g. Duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms

The sergeant-at-arms shall perform such duties as may be required by the president or the board of directors.

102h. Duties of the League Supervisor (Youth leagues only)

The league supervisor is designated by the organizer of the youth league and is responsible for:

1. The league president duties. In youth leagues that do have a board, the president will assist the league supervisor.
2. Granting prebowl and postponements, unless the authority is given to an appointed committee or the league official.
3. Cosign for withdrawal of funds from the league's account(s).

NOTE: The league supervisor and league official cannot be members of an immediate family.

102i. Duties of the League Official (Youth leagues only)

The league official is designated by the organizer of the youth league and is responsible for:

1. The league secretary and treasurer duties. In leagues that do have a board, the secretary and treasurer will assist the league official.
2. Filing a written report of all Rule 400 violations to the local association for possible disciplinary action. (See Rule 17e.)
3. Working with the league supervisor to:
 - a. Adopt rules prior to the start of the schedule, unless the league has a board of directors.
 - b. Enforce the league and USBC rules.
4. Adopting an awards list within the first five weeks of league play and stating how awards fees collected will be disbursed, unless the league has a board of directors. (See Rule 103a.)
5. Cosign for withdrawal of funds from the league's account(s).

Rule 103 – Board of Directors

103a. Management

This rule is waived in youth leagues where a majority of the membership is comprised of youths 13 years or younger and for high school conference leagues.

The board of directors shall consist of the officers and team captains. In youth leagues that do have a board of directors, the adult supervisor and/or official also are members of the board. All other adults are advisors.



The board shall govern the league with the following provisions:

1. A captain may name another team member to act as the team representative at board of director's meetings.
2. Each member of the board is entitled to one vote whether an officer of the league, a team representative or both.
3. A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, unless otherwise stated in the league rules.

103a/1 If the team captain is also an officer, can they vote as a captain and as an officer?

No. Each member of the board is entitled to one vote, whether a league officer, team representative or both. The rule also states a captain may designate another team member to act as the team representative at board meetings. Therefore, if the captain designates another member, the captain is entitled to vote by virtue of the office held, with the other member voting as team representative.

103b. Duties

The board of directors or the youth league supervisor and official shall be responsible for:

1. Making decisions on all matters arising in the league.
2. Deciding all protests involving USBC or league rules. The decision of the league's board is final unless an appeal is made under the provisions of Rule 119.

NOTE: When a team and/or individual is found to be ineligible under league or USBC rules, the game shall be forfeited unless there is a decision to declare the game null and void. In the latter case, a decision shall also be made as to whether the game shall be rebowled.

103b/1 When games bowled are protested, what decisions may the board make?

The board should first determine if the protest was filed within the time limits prescribed in Rule 119. If the protest is timely, the board can declare game(s):

Forfeited: If a rule was violated.

Null and void and rebowled: If a rule was violated, but was not complied with due to misinformation or mitigating circumstances. If games are declared null and void, the board should make another decision as to whether the games should be rebowled.

Stand as bowled: If it is found there is no cause for action.

103b/2 The board decides to null and void the games of two teams involved in a protest. What happens to the original games bowled?

Both team and individual records are eliminated. This includes wins and losses, averages, prize consideration, etc. In other words, a null and void game no longer exists, except for USBC award recognition. (See the note below.) The series scores are deleted from the bowler's average records as of the date of the decision.

For example, if an individual bowled a 498 series December 3 and the board ruled the match null and void January 7, the 498 series is subtracted from the total pins in the average record and total number of games as of January 7. A new average is computed. The same holds true for all other bowlers with games declared null and void.

When the match is rescheduled, the current average is used for handicapping purposes and lineup changes may be made.



NOTE: If a USBC award is earned and the scores declared null and void by the league board, the null and voided scores may be recognized for USBC awards and the league secretary should file an award application.

Rule 104 – Teams

104a. Captain's Authority

A team captain is a member of the league authorized to organize and enter a team in league play. The captain is the team representative and shall perform the following duties:

1. Determine the members of the roster and be responsible for the eligibility of the team and its members under the rules of the league and USBC.
2. Collect USBC, state and local association dues, where applicable, from each member of the team and remit such fees to the league secretary.
3. Be responsible for the conduct and attendance of the team in league play. It is within the captain's authority to permanently remove any player from the team. If requested, good and sufficient reason for the removal must be furnished to the board.
4. Enter the lineup in the computer and/or on the recap sheet before the start of each scheduled series.
5. Sign the scorebooks and have the scores verified by the opposing captain. (See Rule 116a regarding obvious errors.)
6. Be responsible for the collection of league fees from each member of the team for remittance to the league treasurer.
7. Pay each member of the team within 15 days after receiving prize money in accordance with verbal or written agreements. The league's board shall decide a dispute over prize money distribution.

Youth leagues: The captain is elected by the team and only responsible for Items 5 and 6.

104a/1 **May a captain change the lineup from game to game?**

Yes. Unless it is a match point league or there is a league rule to the contrary, a captain may change the lineup from one game to the next. Rule 106b, Item 1, states that once a game has started, no changes to the order can be made after the start of a game. The rule does not place a restriction on making changes during a series. A captain may change the order of the players, replace a substitute with a regular member or make any other lineup change from one game to the next.

104b. Franchise and Roster

The rosters of all teams shall automatically disband at the end of the season. A team franchise (team spot) in the league shall be held by the team captain provided the captain:

1. Is acceptable to the majority of the full membership of the board of directors.
2. Notifies the league secretary of his/her intention to retain the franchise on or before a date set by the league. Failure to do so will result in the franchise returning to the control of the board of directors.

A franchise cannot be recalled during the season without sufficient cause.



104c. Replacement During Season

When a team is replaced, the new team shall assume the position standings of the replaced team, unless the league ruled otherwise. A new team must be advised of the financial status of the team or individual they replaced.

104d. Uneven Number

When a league has an uneven number of teams, the team scheduled against the nonexistent team cannot be credited with the points by forfeit. The Earn the Points system is used unless the league's board of directors, by majority vote, decides to use the Bye or Draw System. The following procedures apply for each system:

1. Earn the Points:
 - a. An individual must bowl at least his/her average less ten (10) pins and/or teams must bowl at least the team average less ten (10) pins per player, unless the league's board states another number.
 - b. Points not won by the team for failing to bowl the prescribed score should be recorded on the standing sheet as "unearned" points.
2. Draw System:
 - a. Teams bowling the vacant team will draw a team or be scheduled against another team from the league to earn points.
 - b. The scores bowled will be used as if bowling in direct competition with the drawn/scheduled team.
3. Bye System:
 - a. Team scheduled against the vacant team does not bowl.
 - b. Position standings shall be determined on a percentage basis.

In all cases, the games bowled by the team that withdrew or was dismissed must stand.

104d/1 How are points awarded when a team ties the target score?

When a team meets or exceeds the target score, the points are earned.

104d/2 What do we do if our league starts the season with an uneven number of teams and a team is added during the season?

USBC recommends the board meet and choose one of the following options:

Option 1: The league allows the new team to make up the games unopposed and match the scores with teams that previously bowled what was considered a nonexistent team.

Option 2: The entering team is not allowed to make up games and the position standings are figured using a percentage basis.

104d/3 What do we do if our league starts the season with an even number of teams and a team is added during the season?

If the league adds a new team during the season giving it an uneven amount of teams, the league board has the following options:

Option 1: The entering team is not allowed to make up missed games and the position standings are figured on a percentage basis.

Option 2: The league allows the new team to bowl against their averages in making up any missed games.



Option 3: The league utilizes the draw system whereby the team bowling unopposed draws another team in the league and their scores are compared with that team to earn points.

No matter which option the league chooses, the league's schedule must be changed to reflect the new number of teams now bowling in the league.

Rule 105 - Absentee and Vacancy Scores

Leagues may adopt rules for absentee or vacancy scores and handicaps to decide league games, subject to the following:

- a. Absentee or vacancy scores may be used only when a legal lineup is present.
- b. Absentee or vacancy scores may not replace scores bowled by an ineligible player.
- c. In a singles league, no vacancy scores shall be used. Absentee scores will not be permitted, unless otherwise provided by league rule.
- d. A vacancy score is to be used when a team has an incomplete roster. Vacancy scores are subject to the following:
 1. **Adult leagues:**
 - a) The vacancy score shall be 120, unless the league rules state another number.
 - b) In handicap leagues, the handicap must be based on the vacancy score used. Handicap shall not be limited.
 2. **Youth leagues:**
 - a) The vacancy score shall be the average of the lowest average bowler on the opposing team's roster, unless the league rules state another number.
 - b) If two or more vacancy scores are required, the average of the next-to-the-lowest bowler on the opposing team's roster shall be used for the second vacancy score, unless the league rules specify a constant vacancy score.
 - c) In handicap leagues, the handicap must be based on the vacancy score used. Handicap shall not be limited.
 - d) The vacancy score is used until an individual bowls and establishes a current average, unless the league rules state otherwise.
- e. An absentee score is to be used when a member is absent and a substitute is not obtained. The following provisions apply unless otherwise provided by league rule:
 1. The absentee score for each game shall be the absent member's current average less 10 pins. In handicap leagues, the handicap shall be based on the absent member's current average.
 2. Teams with additional players on the roster shall use the absentee score of the absent player with the:
 - a) Most games bowled.
 - b) Lowest absentee score when the absentees have the same number of games bowled.
 - c) Next highest number of games bowled when two scores are needed.
 3. When a team has an absent member without an established average according to league rules or USBC Rule 118c, a score of 120 will be used. In handicap leagues, the handicap shall be based on the score of 120.



105/1 If an individual is absent the first night of bowling, is an absentee or vacancy score used?
An absentee score is used unless otherwise provided by league rules or past precedent established in the league. If there is a question as to whether the individual absent is a member of the team's roster, the league's board of directors decides the matter.

105/2 If two members are absent and only one substitute is obtained, which absentee score is used?

According to Rule 104a, Item 1, the team captain is responsible for the eligibility of the team and determines whom the substitute will replace. First, the captain determines whom the substitute will replace and then the absentee score is determined.

When the team has a limited roster, the process is easy. The captain selects the player the substitute replaces, and the absentee score of the other player is used.

When a team has additional players on its roster, the captain decides whom the substitute is replacing. Whoever the substitute is replacing, the absentee score for that absent member cannot be used. According to Rule 105, Item e(2), the absentee score of the player with the most games is used for the other player. If two absentee scores are needed after the substitute is in place, the absentee score of the absentee with the next highest number of games is used and when two absent members have the same number of games, the lower absentee score is used. (See CAQ #118d/1 for cap information.)

105/3 My team had a substitute bowler show up on league night to replace one of our absentee bowlers. The substitute bowled the first game and then found it necessary to leave the bowling center for the remainder of the evening. Is the absentee score for the remaining two games based on the regular team member's average or the substitute's average?

An absentee score is to be used when a member is absent and a substitute is not obtained. Since the substitute only completed the first game of the series, the absentee score for the remaining games must be based on the average of the absent regular team member.

105/4 If a member resigns from the league and the spot is not filled within two weeks (fees were paid, but there is no substitute), what score should be used... absentee or vacancy?

The absentee score should be used. In the situation described, the member resigned, but was not replaced immediately. Therefore, the player is still a member for those two weeks. Once the two weeks expire and a replacement has not been obtained, the vacancy score provided for in the league rules is used.

Rule 106 – League Game/Series

106a. Series – How Bowled

Two lanes immediately adjoining each other shall be used in each game of league play. The first game of a series shall start on the lane where the team is scheduled with each succeeding game starting on the lane where the team finished its previous game. At the option of the league, each game may be bowled on a different pair of lanes, but a full game must be bowled on each pair.

106b. Order of Bowling

Members of competing teams shall successively, and in regular order, bowl one frame on one lane, and for the next frame alternate and use the other lane until five frames are bowled on each lane of the pair.

1. No changes can be made in the order of players after the start of a game.



2. When a team bowls against another team or alone, the next frame may be started prior to completion of the previous frame, unless the league rules state otherwise.

106c. Interrupted Game/Series

If equipment failure on a pair of lanes would delay the progress of a series, league officers can:

1. Authorize the game and series to be completed on another pair of certified lanes; or
2. Authorize the game and/or series to be bowled on one lane when another pair of certified lanes is not available. However, when the original pair or another pair of certified lanes becomes available, the team(s) may resume play on a pair of lanes.

An interrupted game and series shall be resumed from the point of interruption.

When authorized, the requirements of Rules 106a and 106b do not apply.

NOTE: Scores bowled while using one lane shall qualify for USBC award recognition.

106d. Bowling Out

Unless the league rules state otherwise:

1. **Adult leagues:** A bowler may finish any one game of a series before teammates or opponents.
2. **Youth leagues:** A league member may not finish any game of a series before his/her teammates or opponents, unless the league official/supervisor determines an emergency or sufficient cause exists.

Scores recorded while bowling out count in deciding the game and bowler's average, and qualify for USBC awards and league awards.

NOTE: A player bowling out should do so while the others continue to bowl. The player should bowl on each lane immediately after the previous bowler completes the frame, so that the progress of the game is not delayed.

Rule 107 – Team Composition

107a. Competition Limited to One Team

Under no conditions may a player bowl on more than one team in the same scheduled game. In addition, a player may not compete on more than one team in the same league for each of the regularly scheduled games in a series, unless otherwise provided by league rule.

NOTE: Once a player records scores, whether prebowed, post bowled or at the regularly scheduled time, the player's eligibility for that series has been exhausted. The posted scores must be utilized in figuring team and individual standings, unless declared null and void by the league's board of directors.



107a/1 **We had an individual/team prebowl because they had to work. Later they found out that they would not have to work on that date so they appeared at the lanes to bowl. Can the league secretary throw out their scores and allow them to bowl?**

No. When an individual or team receives permission from the league and completes their prebowl, they have exhausted their eligibility for that league session. The league's board of directors has the authority to declare the prebowed scores null and void only if a rule was violated or due to mitigating circumstances. However, the change in the individual's work schedule does not fall into either of these categories, therefore, the scores would stand.

107a/2 **The league had a team prebowl for a specific league session. The team prebowed and then, due to severe weather, the league cancelled bowling on that date and resumed the following week. What happens to the prebowed scores?**

The prebowed scores must be applied to the league session they were intended for. If the team prebowed and the league session was subsequently cancelled, the prebowed scores are then applied to the rescheduled league session. The team would not be permitted to rebowl that week as their scores have already been recorded and their eligibility exhausted. The league board has the authority to null and void scores only due to a rule violation or mitigating circumstances. However, these circumstances would not be sufficient cause for the board to take such action.

107b. Transferring Team Membership

Unless otherwise provided by league rule, a bowler listed on a team's roster and whose scores have counted, may transfer to another team in the league during the season provided:

1. **Adult leagues:** Two-thirds of the league's team captains agree to the transfer.

This provision does not apply to USBC closed leagues, or to any league which adopts its own rule to govern transfers.

2. **Youth leagues:** The league official/supervisor consents to the transfer.

107c. Substitutes and/or Replacements

A substitute is a bowler who replaces another who is scheduled to participate in a USBC league, or bowls for a team with an incomplete roster.

The following shall apply to substitutes and/or replacements:

1. Scores bowled by a substitute shall count for the games bowled.
2. A substitute must be a member of USBC, a state association and a local association, where required.
3. A substitute may bowl with any team in the league, but may not compete on more than one team in the same league for any regularly scheduled games each week, unless otherwise provided by league rule. (See Rule 107a.)
4. The average of a substitute shall be kept. Should a substitute later be added to a team's roster, his/her average shall be continued.
5. Scores bowled through the efforts of more than one individual player shall not qualify for league or USBC individual awards. (See Rule 118b for average information.)
6. In mixed leagues, a substitute or replacement may be of either gender, unless otherwise provided by league rules.
7. A player removed from a game cannot return to bowl in the same game.
8. Substitutes are not entitled to attend league meetings.



9. A team must be allowed to add a replacement when its roster is less than the playing strength of the league.
10. A team using a substitute is eligible for all high team prizes.
11. Unless otherwise provided by league rules:
 - a. Substitutes are not required to pay league fees.
 - b. A captain may replace any player at any time during a game with another eligible player.
 - c. When substitutes are made during a game, the score counts only for team score.

NOTE: When a substitution is made during a game in a handicap league, each player receives 1/10 of his/her single game handicap for each frame bowled. For example, an original player with a single game handicap of 19 pins completes six frames and a substitute with a single game handicap of 22 pins completes the remaining four frames:

Original player $1/10$ of 19 = 1.9 pins x 6 frames = 11.4 or 11 pins. Substitute player $1/10$ of 22 = 2.2 pins x 4 frames = 8.8 pins or 8 pins.

The fraction is dropped from each individual's handicap, not from each frame.

In leagues using the team method of handicapping, the same procedure is used. Determine the team handicap with the original player and with the substitute in the lineup. Then apply the handicap based on the number of frames completed by each player.

Youth leagues:

12. Leagues may allow substitutes present and not needed on a team to bowl for average and USBC awards.

107c/1 In my league, there are five members on each team, we would like to carry six members so we can rotate each week. We were told that another bowler would be considered a substitute. Can we add another member who bowls only for us and is a full-fledged member?

Rule 100a, Item 1(b) indicates the league decides the team playing strength, but each team is allowed to determine if there will be additional members, unless league rules limit the roster. If your league did not adopt a rule limiting each team to five members, additional member(s) could be added to the team roster.

107c/2 May a substitute bowl one game with one team and bowl the remaining two games with another team?

If a league did not adopt a rule to allow a substitute to bowl with more than one team in a match, a substitute cannot compete on more than one team in the same scheduled match. For example, a substitute could not bowl with a team at the regularly scheduled time and then again with another team that may have been granted permission to postpone that match.

107c/3 Our team has six members on its roster, but only five members bowl each week. Can the additional member on our roster bowl with another team on league night?

Yes, additional roster members may bowl with other teams as substitutes when they are not scheduled to bowl with their team, unless league rules state otherwise or the league has a past precedent of not allowing these substitutions. If there is a question on the past precedent of the league, the league's board of directors must meet and make a decision by majority vote.



107c/4 May a league adopt a rule stating no new members be allowed for the last few weeks of the season, the position round or for the playoff?

Yes, however, according to Rule 107c, Item 9, a team must be allowed to add players when its roster is less than the playing strength of the league. For example, if the playing strength is five, teams must be allowed to have at least five members. A rule limiting additions or replacements to a team after a certain date may not be enforced if the team does not have the full playing strength on the roster. After the playing strength is reached, the league rule should be enforced, and a team is not allowed to add members to the team.

107d. Pacers

A pacer is a bowler who fills in to balance the rotation of the teams. The following shall apply to all pacers:

1. Scores bowled do not count towards team totals nor are they included in the average records.
2. Pacers are allowed, unless otherwise provided by league rule.
3. Pacers who are USBC members are eligible for all USBC individual awards.

Rule 108 – Failure to Complete Game

108a. With Cause

When a player is unable to complete a game because of disability, injury or emergency, and another eligible player is not available, the team shall count the actual score for the frames bowled plus one-tenth of the league's absentee score for each frame missed. (See Rule 118b for average information.)

NOTE: For computing score: Take actual score for frames bowled; credit 10 pins for a strike or spare in last frame bowled. Add 1/10 of league's absentee score for each of the remaining frames. For example, if absentee score is bowler's average less 10: Absentee score, 145; 1/10 of 145 = 14.5 X 3 frames = 43.5. Drop fraction and add 43 to actual score for 7 frames bowled. The fraction is dropped after the total amount is figured, and not from each frame.

108a/1 When a team member must leave during a game due to injury, how is the remainder of their game scored? What if they must leave in the middle of a frame after making only their first delivery?

Rule 108a provides that if a team member is unable to complete a game due to disability, injury or emergency and another team member is not available, the team shall count the actual score for the frames bowled plus one-tenth of the league's absentee score for each of the remaining frames in the game.

When a team member only makes their first delivery in a frame and is unable to complete the game, they can only be credited with the number of pins knocked down on that delivery for the frame. The team member gets credit for all completed and partial frames bowled plus one-tenth of their absentee score for additional frames missed.

108a/2 If a player has to leave any game because of an emergency and the team loses its legal lineup, is the team required to forfeit?

No. Rule 109b does not require a team to forfeit if it loses its legal lineup during a game. The team could finish the game using one-tenth of the bowler's absentee score for the frames not completed.

If the team could not field a legal lineup for the next game, the team is entitled to an emergency postponement. Rule 109b states, leagues shall grant postponements for emergencies when a team fails to appear due to reasons beyond its control. The same would apply when a team loses its legal lineup during a series.



108b. Without Cause

When a player does not complete a game for reasons other than disability, injury or emergency, the player's team shall count zero for each remaining frame in the game. (See Rule 118b for average information.)

If there is any doubt of a player's reason for not being able to continue a game, the league's board of directors shall decide. A player who leaves a game without cause cannot return to bowl in the same game.

108b/1 After missing a spare in the fifth frame of the second game, the player gets upset and stops bowling. How do you score the bowlers second and third game?

The team is credited with the actual score for the first five frames bowled and zero for each remaining frames in the second game. For the third game, the team uses the player's absentee score. In calculating the bowlers average, only the first game is included in the bowler's average record.

108c. Missed Frames

A player who starts a game and then misses frames due to an emergency may return to bowl before completion of the same game and make up the frames missed, unless the league rules:

1. Require a player to enter the game at the frame being bowled by the team.
2. Do not allow a player to return to bowl.

Rule 108a must be applied for missed frames that are not made up in the same game.

Rule 109 - Lineup

109a. Legal Lineup

A minimum legal lineup must be present to complete the first frame of any game of a series unless the league rules state another frame. A frame shall be considered completed when all bowlers present on each team have made his/her last deliveries in that frame. The following also shall apply:

1. A legal lineup is:
 - a. Three or more eligible players in five-player team leagues, unless league rules state two or more.
 - b. Two or more eligible players in either three- or four-player team leagues, unless league rules state one or more.
 - c. One eligible player in two-player team leagues.
2. Substitutes count to determine a legal lineup, unless otherwise provided by league rule.
3. Leagues may include in its rules the number of players from a team's roster who must be present to count toward a legal lineup.

109a/1 If a league does not adopt a rule designating the number of regular members for a legal lineup, is it acceptable to have just one regular member plus substitutes?

Substitutes are considered eligible players for a minimum legal lineup unless the league adopts a rule requiring a specific number of regular members to be present. If such a rule is not adopted, any number of substitutes could count toward a legal lineup.



109a/2 Can a league adopt a rule stating a legal lineup must be present at the start of a game or at a designated time?

A team has until the completion of the first frame, or a select frame other than the first, to field a legal lineup. Therefore, it is not permissible to require a team to have a legal lineup present at the start of a game or at a designated time.

109a/3 When a league allows for individual prebowls, do the scores count toward the legal lineup requirement?

Yes, the scores count towards the legal lineup requirement unless the league rules require a legal lineup present at the regular league session.

109b. Lack of Legal Lineup

When one or both teams scheduled against each other fail to present a minimum legal lineup and a postponement was not requested, the game(s) is (are) forfeited unless an emergency existed. The postponement committee or board of directors shall decide whether an emergency existed and, if so, the match shall be rescheduled under the postponement rules. Decisions made by the postponement committee can be appealed to the league's board of directors.

109c. Tardy Players

Unless otherwise provided by league rule, a player who arrives late may be permitted to bowl after a game has started under these conditions:

1. The player shall begin play, with the score to count, beginning with the frame then being bowled by the team.
2. The player shall receive one-tenth of the absentee score for each frame not bowled.
3. Partial games shall not be used in determining a bowler's average, unless league rules require the secretary to maintain averages based on the actual frames bowled by each player.

109c/1 If a legal lineup is not present by the end of the first frame but a tardy player arrives before the designated tardy player frame, can the late bowler make up missed frames to avoid a team forfeit?

No, a league rule setting a specific frame for tardy players is separate from the legal lineup rule. First, a team must have enough eligible players present for a legal lineup. Tardy players could enter the game if they arrived before completion of the designated tardy frame, but the game would still be forfeited.

However, games two and three would not be forfeited since the team would have a legal lineup present.

Rule 110 – Forfeits

110a. League Fee Arrearages

A league can adopt a rule to declare games forfeited if participants in a team's lineup are not current in league fee payments.

A league that does not adopt a rule is responsible for any loss incurred by such arrearages.



NOTE: A team cannot be required to forfeit if fees are not paid for an absent member or a vacancy.

110a/1 **Our league rule states members cannot be more than a week behind in paying their league fees. If any member comes the second week in a row and can't pay, can a league officer tell them they can't bowl?**

Yes. If more leagues had such a rule and enforced it, there would be fewer instances of nonpayment of league fees and fewer suspended members. Just be sure to explain this rule to every member. You may have a few disgruntled members early in the season, but the word will spread that the league is serious about everyone keeping their fees current. A league should not allow debts to accumulate for more than two weeks without taking action.

110b. Refusal to Bowl

A team that refuses to bowl with less than a full lineup forfeits any games it declines to bowl.

110c. Procedure for Bowling

When a team is bowling in a known forfeit situation, the following procedures shall apply:

1. The forfeiting team is not to receive any point(s).
2. Unless the league rules have stated another number, to earn the point(s):
 - a. An individual must bowl at least his/her average less ten (10) pins.
 - b. Teams must bowl at least the team average less ten (10) pins per player.
3. Points not won by the individual and/or team for failing to bowl the prescribed score should be recorded on the standing sheet as "unearned" points.
4. The following applies to players on the forfeiting team:
 - a. Those who are present may bowl, but the scores shall not be included in the team's total pins.
 - b. Scores bowled in accordance with this procedure shall be counted toward averages and qualify for league prizes, unless the league rules state otherwise.
 - c. Scores shall qualify for USBC awards.

NOTE: When leagues include series totals in points won and a team forfeits one or more games in a series, that team shall receive a zero for the games it forfeits in deciding the winner of the series point.

When a league determines position standings on a percentage basis, the percentage is calculated by dividing the number of points won by the total number of points available to the team. (The total number of points available includes points won, lost and unearned through forfeit situations.)

110c/1 **What is a known forfeit?**

The team bowls knowing the opposing team is not eligible to receive any points due to an apparent rule violation. For example, an opposing team lacks a legal lineup or the opposing team is over the average cap. To promote a competitive atmosphere, the non-forfeiting team must earn the points.

110c/2 **What is an unknown forfeit?**

The team bowls unaware that a forfeit will be declared. For example, it was found out immediately after bowling the opposing team used an ineligible player. The forfeiture would have to be acted upon within the



specified timelines of Rule 119. The forfeiting team does not receive any points and the non-forfeiting team is automatically credited with all of the points.

110c/3 If a team does not show up and a postponement was not requested, does the team present get all the points?

In instances where the reason for absence is unknown, the team present must earn the points and should be advised that the absence may be due to an emergency.

A league officer should call the captain to determine whether something unforeseen occurred. If an emergency exists, advise the absent team they have the right to request an emergency postponement within the time constraints of Rule 119. See Rule 111c for information on emergency postponements.

110c/4 When a team loses a game by forfeit, how do you determine who wins the point for total pins?

When a team forfeits a game, the team score for that game is zero. Add zero to the scores bowled in the other games in the series and compare that total to the opposing team's series total.

110c/5 A team meets the prescribed score (team average less ten pins per player) in a known forfeit situation. Do they split the point?

No. When a team meets the prescribed score, the point(s) is (are) earned. There are no ties in this situation.

110c/6 If a team has to forfeit because an ineligible player is used, what happens to the scores bowled?

An ineligible player's score becomes zero, and the game(s) is (are) not included in their average. The team's score for the forfeited game(s) is (are) also zero. However, the scores bowled by the eligible players are counted toward their averages and any individual prizes.

110c/7 In our league, we figure team and individual averages after bowling three games. On the first night, if a team is bowling in a forfeit situation, how would you determine whether the team "earned" points for the three games since averages are not established until the series completion?

The team would have to wait until the end of the series to figure individual and team averages. After the team average is computed, deduct 10 pins per player to determine the score the team had to bowl, or exceed, to be credited with "earned" points. If the team does not earn points, they are listed on the standing sheet as "unearned."

Rule 111 – Prebowl/Postponements

111a. Types

Types of prebowl and postponements:

1. Bowling in direct opposition.
2. Team unopposed bowling — permitted, unless the league adopts a rule prohibiting this type of competition.
3. Individual unopposed bowling:
 - a. **Adult leagues**, prohibited, unless the league rules state otherwise.
 - b. **Youth Leagues**, permitted, unless the league rules state otherwise.



111b. Reason

A league cannot adopt a rule that would have the effect of not permitting any prebowl/postponements. The league must grant a prebowl/postponement when the team is unable to field a legal lineup for the following reasons:

1. Some of its bowlers are participating in the USBC Championships, state or local association championship tournaments or attending an annual meeting.
2. There is sufficient cause.
3. An emergency situation.

111b/1 What is considered sufficient cause for an emergency postponement?

An emergency is defined as an unforeseen combination of circumstances, making it impossible for a team to field a legal lineup. The reasons for not being able to bowl would not have to be catastrophic — just beyond the control of the team members.

Although each reason by itself might not be considered an emergency, the combination of circumstances happening at the same time is considered an emergency. For example, if a five-person team knew a player was to be out of town and thought they could field a legal lineup, but prior to bowling, another bowler fell ill and the next had to work late, the team could request an emergency postponement.

111b/2 After a bad storm, all but two teams were able to field legal lineups. Are these two teams entitled to emergency postponements when all the other teams in the league were able to get to the lanes?

Yes, weather conditions which prevent a team from fielding a legal lineup are classified as emergencies. Leagues must grant postponements for emergencies when a team fails to appear for its scheduled match due to reasons beyond its control. Adverse weather conditions are sufficient reason to grant a postponement without advance notice.

Members must realize all bowlers do not face the same driving conditions or circumstances, so the ability of an individual to drive under adverse conditions cannot be used as a basis for declaring games forfeited.

111c. Request

Games must be bowled as scheduled, unless a request is made at least 48 hours before the scheduled time, except for emergencies, and approval is granted.

111c/1 What happens when a team cannot field a legal lineup or does not appear and no prebowl or postponement is requested?

A forfeit is issued. However, the forfeiting team has up to 15 days to protest the forfeiture and request an emergency postponement according to Rule 119. If the scheduled games are within the final two weeks of the schedule, the team must protest and request an emergency postponement within 48 hours of the final date of that schedule.

111d. Granting

Prebowl/Postponement requests are reviewed and decided by:

1. **Adult leagues:** A committee appointed for this purpose or the board of directors.
2. **Youth leagues:** The league supervisor unless the authority is given to the league official or a committee appointed for this purpose.

Decisions made by the committee or league supervisor/official may be appealed to the board of directors under the provisions of Rule 119. (See Rule 119 for further appeal procedures.)



111d/1 Who has the authority to call off bowling for the entire league because of bad weather?

While there is no specific rule giving the authority to cancel bowling because of inclement weather, decisions made by league officers have been consistently upheld. The officers should be acting in the league's best interest.

To be assured they are making the correct decision to cancel bowling, the officers should conduct a telephone poll of board members. If a majority vote supporting the decision is obtained, it is in line with Rules 103b and 111d, Item 1, which authorize the board to decide on postponements.

111e. Procedure

Following is the procedure to be used for prebowling or postponements:

1. When teams are bowling in direct opposition, the captains of the teams involved shall agree to a date for bowling the prebowl/postponed match. If within one week from the date originally scheduled, the captains cannot agree on a date, the league secretary shall set a date and notify both team captains of the date and time. This notification should be given at least three days prior to the date.
2. The league secretary or designated representative shall notify the bowling center of the change in schedule and arrange to have a pair of lanes available.
3. Games must be bowled under the same regulations and rules governing league play.
4. Handicap is figured as of the date/time the games are bowled. All games bowled prior to the prebowed or postponed match shall be included in determining handicap.
5. Prebowed or postponed games shall be included in the average record as of the date bowled.
6. Games can be made up on any certified pair of lanes.
7. Scores qualify for league awards, unless otherwise provided by league rule.
8. Unopposed pre or post bowled scores will be eligible for USBC Awards except High Score Awards as designated in Rules 51a, 51b, 51c, 51d, 52b and 52d.

111e/1 If a team is granted a prebowl or postponement and the opposing team is not notified, are the games forfeited?

When bowling unopposed, the opposing team does not have to be notified (or agree to a date) prior to the time of bowling, unless otherwise provided by league rule. If the league rules are silent regarding team bowling unopposed, the games stand as bowled. As a courtesy, the opposing team should be notified.

111e/2 What average and handicap is used for a prebowl and/or postponement?

The averages and handicaps as of the date the games are bowled must be used in both postponed and prebowed games. All games bowled prior to the postponed or prebowed games are used to determine average and handicap.

111e/3 When teams prebowl or post bowl unopposed, can the opposing team see the scores bowled by the team bowling first?

There is no USBC rule to prevent the opposing team from seeing the scores. When a league allows teams to bowl unopposed, rules can be adopted to govern this situation.



111f. Time Limit for Bowling

Prebowed/postponed games must be bowled as follows:

1. Prior to the date of scheduled competition for final team standings for the season or each segment of a split season; or
2. Within seven days when the postponement is granted for the last day of a segment (split season leagues); or
3. Within seven days when the postponement is granted for the last day of the schedule.

The foregoing applies to teams bowling in direct opposition. A league may adopt different time frames for individual and/or team unopposed bowling.

The foregoing does not apply when a protest or appeal is pending finalization under Rule 119.

Rule 112 – Tie Game

When a tie occurs, each of the teams shall be credited with one-half the value of the point(s) normally awarded. There shall be no playoff of such ties.

Rule 113 – Playoffs/Special Contests

113a. Definition

A playoff is a separate competition conducted to determine league champions and/or break ties in the league standings. A playoff must be conducted:

1. To determine the champion when a tie exists for first place at the end of the league schedule;
2. To determine a champion when the league bowls a split season;
3. To determine first place when a tie occurs in any segment of a split season;
4. When the league decides to break a tie for any other position. Scores bowled which qualify for USBC awards will be recognized.

NOTE: Total pins for the season or team average cannot break position standing ties at the conclusion of the season, or at the end of any segment of a split season schedule.

113a/1 If the league rules state no substitutes will be permitted the final two weeks of the schedule, can a substitute be used in the playoff?

A playoff is not considered part of the last two weeks of the schedule. If substitutes are permitted during the regular season, they would be acceptable as eligible players unless a league rule specifically states that substitutes are not permitted in the playoff.

113b. Procedures

A playoff may not consist of less than one game.

1. The following procedures apply, unless the league rules state otherwise:



- a. Playoffs consist of the same number of games and are conducted under the same rules governing league play during the regular season.
 - b. Handicap is figured as of the date/time the games are bowled. All games bowled prior to the playoff are included in determining handicap.
 - c. When more than two teams are involved in a playoff, total pins from the playoff shall decide the winner.
 - d. If a tie exists at the end of a playoff, each team bowls an additional frame until the tie is broken.
 - 1) Each team begins on the lane where it bowled the final frame of the last game and alternates lanes for each additional complete frame needed to break the tie.
 - 2) Frames are scored like a 10th frame; one-tenth of the handicap for one game is given for the extra frame.
 - e. Playoff games do not count toward individual averages or special league prizes.
2. The league secretary arranges to have lanes available.

113b/1 What average and handicap are used in a playoff?

Unless otherwise provided by league rules, the players involved use their average and handicap as of the date the playoff is bowled. For example, if a league bowls a split season, and the playoff for the first half is not bowled until after three weeks into the second half, the average and handicap for the playoff includes all the games already bowled in the second half.

113b/2 What happens if there is a three-way tie for first place or a trophy position?

Total pins from the playoff will determine the winner unless otherwise provided in league rules. Four adjoining lanes would be used, starting lanes would be selected by draw, and teams would rotate after each game as follows:

113b/3 If a tie still exists after a playoff series is completed, how is the tie broken?

Lane	A	B	C
First Game	Team 3	Team 1	Team 2
Second Game	Team 2	Team 3	Team 1
Third Game	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3

In the absence of a league rule stating otherwise, when a tie still exists at the end of the playoff, each team will bowl an additional frame. This frame is to be bowled by each team on the lane where it bowled the final frame of the last game and is scored like the tenth frame. If the tie is still unbroken, the teams involved alternate lanes for the additional tenth frame needed to break the tie. This frame stands alone to determine the winner and is not added to the previous playoff game total. In a handicap league, one-tenth of the handicap is added to the 10th frame score.

113b/4 When there is a tie for the winner of the first half in a split season, when should the playoff be conducted?

The playoff should be bowled as soon as possible. It is not necessary or recommended that teams wait until the end of the season to break a tie for first place in the first half.



113c. Special Contests

A special contest is competition scheduled by the league where the scores do not count towards regular league standings; such as a tournament. The following apply to such competition:

1. Participation must be limited to league members or substitutes.
2. USBC league or tournament rules govern play.
3. Scores bowled which qualify for USBC awards will be recognized.

Rule 114 – Withdrawals/Resignations

114a. Procedure for Withdrawing

Members of a league may withdraw from a league during a season.

1. If a team or individual must withdraw, the following procedure is to be followed:
 - a. Two weeks notice must be given along with sufficient cause for resigning.
 - 1) A team shall give notice to the league secretary.
 - 2) A member resigning from a team shall give notice to the captain and the league secretary.
 - b. The resigning member(s) must pay league fees for two weeks if the bowler is not replaced within that period.
2. If proper notice and sufficient cause is not given, all franchise, prize and any other money for which the team or individual may have been eligible will be forfeited, unless the league's board determines otherwise. In addition, the member(s) shall be subject to suspension of USBC membership.

114b. Procedure for Returning After Withdrawing

A bowler who has resigned may bowl in the same league later that season provided:

1. Proper notice and sufficient cause was given, and the individual bowls on the same team from which the bowler resigned. No vote of the team captains is required; or
2. Two-thirds written consent of the team captains is obtained when the bowler did not give proper notice and sufficient cause, or wants to bowl on a team other than the one the bowler resigned from.

The average of any bowler permitted to return to the league shall be continued.

Rule 115 – Disciplinary Procedures

115a. Dismissal of a League Officer or Player

A league member can file a written charge asking for removal of a league officer or dismissal of a player.

1. A player may be dismissed from the league or an officer removed from league office only for any of the following reasons:
 - a. Conduct derogatory to the best interest of the league.
 - b. Any deliberate action which can be proven to be detrimental to the best interest of the team.
 - c. Violation of any USBC or league rule.



A player who continues to pay the league fees cannot be dismissed or replaced because of absence from league play unless one of the foregoing reasons is applicable.

2. If written charges are filed, the following procedures must be followed:
 - a. Within one week after receipt of the written complaint, the league president should schedule a meeting of the league's board of directors, and members of the board shall be notified. The meeting should be held at the earliest possible date.
 - b. Written notice and a copy of the complaint shall be provided to the individual(s) charged. Such notice:
 - 1) Should be sent by first class mail or be hand delivered.
 - 2) Shall notify the individual of the date, time and place of the meeting, as well as his/her right to attend and offer a defense.
 - c. A roster shall be prepared listing those present and absent. A quorum of the board of directors must be present at the meeting. Minutes of the meeting and all documents and material relating to the charges must be maintained.
 - d. A two-thirds vote of board members present and voting shall be required for dismissal and/or removal from office.
 - e. The individual(s) involved shall be notified in writing of the board's decision and of the right to appeal that decision to the respective USBC local association, or to USBC Headquarters. An appeal under this rule must be filed in accordance with Rule 119.
3. A player dismissed from the league:
 - a. Forfeits all franchise, prize and any other money for which they may have been eligible, unless the league's board determines otherwise.
 - b. May rejoin the league with the written consent of two-thirds of the full membership of the board. If permitted to rejoin, the average shall be continued.

115b. Nonpayment of Fees and/or Improper Withdrawal

In Youth leagues that do not have a board of directors, the league supervisor/official is responsible for the duties of the board.

When a league member is accused of failing to pay league fees and/or withdrawing without sufficient cause, the league must try to resolve the matter. If the matter is not resolved, the following procedure shall apply:

1. A complaint shall be submitted, in writing, to a league officer or supervisor/official. Upon receipt of a written complaint, the league proceeds as follows:
 - a. Within one week after receipt, the president/supervisor should schedule a meeting of the league's board of directors, and the board shall be notified. The meeting should be held at the earliest possible date.
 - b. Provides written notice and a copy of the complaint to the individual(s) charged. Such notice:
 - 1) Should be sent by first class mail or be hand delivered.
 - 2) Shall notify the individual of the date, time and place of the meeting, as well as his/her right to attend and offer a defense. If the accused is a youth member, the parent or guardian also must be invited to the meeting.



- c. Prepares a roster listing those present and absent. A quorum of the board of directors must be present at the meeting.
- d. Maintains minutes of the meeting and all documents relating to the charges. The minutes shall include:
 - 1) An accounting of arrearages, including dates and amounts. The bowler may not be charged for more than six (6) sessions.
 - 2) Whether the accused was present or absent when the arrearage occurred.
 - 3) The date of replacement (if applicable).
- e. Votes to determine if the accused is guilty. A two-thirds vote of the board members present and voting shall be required. After voting:
 - 1) If found not guilty (two-thirds vote not achieved), the charges are dismissed.
 - 2) If found guilty, the local association or USBC Headquarters is to be furnished with a copy of Items a-g indicated below and should be submitted within 30 days after the league meeting.
 - a) The meeting notices.
 - b) The meeting minutes.
 - c) List of board members, officers and team captains present or absent.
 - d) The vote count for the recommendation of the league's board.
 - e) Amount charged to defendant(s) and all supporting documents and material. (See Rule 115b, Item 1-d)
 - f) Exact date(s) each defendant is being charged for. The bowler may not be charged for more than six sessions.
 - g) The league rules.
2. Upon receipt of the file, the local association manager shall verify that complete information was provided and submit a copy of the file to USBC Headquarters.
3. USBC will notify the member charged that they have 30 days to:
 - a. Either pay the amount charged, or;
 - b. Request a hearing on the charge by submitting a written request to USBC Headquarters. When a hearing is requested:
 - 1) USBC Headquarters will direct the local association to handle the complaint in accordance with the suspension and reinstatement procedures outlined in the USBC Bylaws book.
 - 2) One or more of the league officers who attended the meeting of the league's board is to appear at the local association hearing.
4. If the member does not request a hearing, USBC Headquarters will make a final decision with the information in the file.

115b/1 A 14-year old boy quit my son's team owing fees for several weeks. Now he has joined a league in another center. Can anything be done to prevent such incidents?

As the boy is not an adult, he cannot be forced to repay the money; however, he can be suspended for nonpayment of league fees, which violates Rule 17b-3. If the league cannot collect the money, the procedures as outlined in Rule 115b must be followed.



115c. Limited Removals (Youth Leagues)

The following applies to youth leagues only:

1. The removal processes only applies to leagues under the supervision of the league supervisor or official and does not restrict the member from participation in other USBC leagues or tournaments.
2. The league supervisor or league official may impose the following penalties for rule violations and/or improper conduct:
 - a. Limited removal of not more than three league sessions.
 - b. Permanent removal.
3. A youth has the right to appeal any removal from league competition.
 - a. The appeal must be filed in writing with the local association or USBC Headquarters within:
 - 1) 48 hours of a limited removal.
 - 2) 15 days from the date of permanent removal.
 - b. A removal from one to three league session(s) is held in abeyance until a decision is made by USBC.
 - c. The local association should forward appeals they receive to USBC Headquarters within seven days of receipt.

Rule 116 - Scores

116a. Scoring Process

In league play:

1. Scores must be recorded on a scoresheet in plain view of opposing players.
2. Every frame bowled by each player shall be recorded.
3. Each team shall record the scores of each game in a scorebook kept by the team captain or someone appointed by the captain for this purpose.
4. The scoresheet is the official record, and the team scorebooks must agree with the scoresheet at the end of each game.
5. After the scorebooks are verified and signed by the opposing team captains, they are the league's official record for the season.
6. Errors in scoring or calculation must be corrected by a league officer immediately upon discovery. Any questionable errors in scoring or calculation shall be decided by the league's board.

116b. Scores Lost

When game(s) or frame(s) within a game are irretrievably lost in the scoring process, the following procedures shall apply:

1. Scores that can be documented or agreed upon by the opposing team captains stand and the game shall resume from the point of interruption in regular order.
2. Scores that can not be documented or agreed upon by the opposing team captains shall be rebowled, unless the board of directors rules them null and void.



116b/1 We use automatic scoring machines, and one night a team's scores were accidentally erased in the eighth frame of the first game. A printout was not available, so the league secretary allowed the team to reconstruct the scores. Was this procedure correct?

If the teams in question are able to agree, the scores could be reconstructed and, if necessary, the games continued from the point of interruption.

If the official record is mutilated, lost, defaced, or the captains cannot agree on the scores, USBC holds games in question should be rebowled.

Rule 117 – Prizes

117a. Prize List

The prize committee shall submit one or more prize lists for consideration within five weeks after the start of the season. The prize list shall:

1. Comply with any rules that have been adopted by the league.
2. Be approved by the board of directors unless the league rules provide for its adoption by the membership. After approval, the prize list may be changed only with the written consent of every team captain or designated representative.

117a/1 What voting procedures are used when the prize committee submits multiple prize lists?

The league's prize list must be adopted by a majority of those present and voting. Therefore, if three or more prize lists are considered and none of the prize lists submitted receives a majority vote, the league's board of directors should approve one of the following options:

1. The prize list receiving the lowest vote total is dropped and the remaining prize lists are voted upon. Until one prize list receives a majority vote, the prize list receiving the lowest vote would continue to be dropped.
2. All prize lists with the exception of the two receiving the most votes are dropped and another vote is taken. The prize list adopted is decided by a majority vote.

117b. Qualification

The following procedure applies to prize distribution:

1. Team – Team prizes shall be distributed according to verbal or written agreements.
 - a. If there is a dispute on the division of team prizes, it shall be decided by the board of directors.
 - b. No team can win more than one prize in any group of prizes, unless otherwise provided by league rule.
2. Individual – To qualify for individual league prizes, a player must bowl the required number of games.
 - a. The following provisions also apply, unless otherwise provided by league rules.
 - 1) A member shall have bowled at least two-thirds of the games of the league's schedule.
 - 2) If a substitute later becomes a regular member, the games bowled as a substitute shall be included in the required number of games. (This does not apply to the league high average award.)
 - 3) Scores bowled as a substitute shall not qualify for individual league prizes.
 - 4) No individual can win more than one prize in any group of prizes.



- b. If a bowler has competed in two-thirds of the league schedule or the number of required games, and cannot be a member at the end of the season because of physical disability or other reasons beyond his/her control, the board of directors shall decide his/her eligibility for individual prizes.
 - c. A member who withdraws during the season without proper notice and sufficient cause or is dismissed or suspended, shall forfeit any money paid into the league, unless the league board determines otherwise.
3. Handicap Leagues: All special prizes for team and/or individual high series or high game shall be awarded on a handicap basis, unless otherwise adopted by the league.

NOTE: The following are considered groups of prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd high individual scratch game; 1st, 2nd, 3rd high individual handicap game; 1st, 2nd, 3rd high individual scratch series; and 1st, 2nd, 3rd high individual handicap series. The same groups apply to team awards.

Since scratch and handicap scores are considered separate groups, a team or individual would be eligible for both scratch and handicap prizes, unless the league rules otherwise. If a league rule limits teams or individuals to one award, the rule should also state which prize a member or team will win if a score qualifies for more than one.

Rule 118 – Averages

118a. How Determined

A bowling average is determined by dividing the total number of pins credited to a bowler in one USBC league by the number of games bowled in that league in a season.

Extra pins or fractions must be disregarded in using averages for handicapping or classification purposes and shall be reduced to a percentage of a pin only for the purpose of deciding individual position standings in a league.

Partial games and games bowled through the efforts of more than one player cannot be used in determining a bowler's average, unless league rules require the secretary to maintain averages based on the actual frames bowled by each player.

118b. How Established

Each league shall adopt a rule to determine the number of games required to establish an average in that league. The following applies when establishing an average:

1. A right-handed bowler must always bowl right-handed. Similarly, a left-handed bowler must always bowl left-handed. Penalty: Forfeiture of game.
2. No combination of scores bowled both right- and left-handed can be used to compute an average, except as stipulated in Rule 4c.
3. The league's board of directors may, by majority vote, adjust a player's average before the player bowls in the league or during the season due to injury or disability. Separate averages must be maintained.



Youth leagues:

4. A bowler using a two-handed delivery will establish an average with two hands. When the bowler changes to a one-handed delivery, they must establish a new average using that hand.

118b/1 If a bowler uses his/her opposite hand to make a delivery during a game, what happens?

If an individual does not have permission from the league's board of directors, a league officer or the league board would then have the following options within the timelines as stated in Rule 119.

- ★ Declare the individual's game forfeited: The bowler would receive zero for the game. (**Note:** Scores bowled by the other team members not in violation stand as bowled.)
- ★ Declare the team's game forfeited: The team would receive zero for the game. (**Note:** The individual in violation would receive zero. However, scores bowled by the other team members counts toward their individual averages and league awards unless the league rules state otherwise.)

118b/2 A bowler decides to throw at a spare by delivering their bowling ball between their legs. Would this be considered a change in delivery and a violation of Rule 118b?

The bowler has changed or deviated from their normal delivery which is a violation of Rule 118b. This rule provides a penalty of forfeiture of the individual's/team's game in which this action occurred.

118c. League Entering Average

Entering averages are determined by league rules. A bowler who does not have an entering average or until they meet the requirement(s) defined by league rule(s), average is determined by dividing the total number of pins by the total number of games bowled the first league session. (See Rule 100g for handicap.) When a bowler fails to complete his/her first game in order to establish an average, the frames bowled will be declared null and void and a vacancy score used.

NOTE: The following are options for entering averages:

- ★ **Highest Average** – The highest average in any USBC league in which a player competes in one season.
- ★ **Composite Average** – The average of a bowler who bowls in two or more USBC leagues in a season. The average is determined by adding the total pins for all of the leagues and dividing the result by the total number of games bowled in those leagues.

NOTE: If a bowler is unable to finish a game after at least one complete game has been bowled, the provisions of Rule 108a or 108b must be followed using the average established for the complete game.

118c/1 The league rule requires three games be bowled to establish an average. A member bowls a 120 for game one and a 150 for game two and cannot bowl game three. What score is used for the missed game? How are average and handicap figured?

In a handicap league, if a bowler does not have an entering average or until they meet the requirement(s) defined by league rule, handicap is based on the average of all games bowled.

In the example given, the score for game three would be calculated by adding games 1 and 2 together ($120 + 150 = 270$ actual pinfall), then dividing by total games bowled ($270 \div 2 = 135$ average). This will give you the bowler's average which is used for handicapping purposes. To determine the absentee score for game three, the bowler would use the established average less ten pins ($135 - 10 = 125$ absentee score) unless league rules state otherwise.



118d. League Entering Average Cap

When a league institutes a team/individual cap, the league will use the entering averages to determine the cap. The following shall also apply:

1. The team shall not have a combined entering average that exceeds the league cap rule, unless otherwise provided by league rule.
2. If a member on a team is replaced or a substitute is used, the combined entering average of those players will constitute the team average for the purposes of meeting the league cap.

118d/1 The league has a rule stating teams may not exceed the 900 average cap at any time during the season. A team needs a substitute or a replacement during the season. Do the team members use their current average or entering average to determine compliance with the league average cap?

Entering averages must be used to determine compliance with the league cap. When a member on a team is replaced or a substitute is used, the combined entering averages of those players will constitute the team average for the purpose of meeting the league average cap.

118d/2 The playing strength of the league is four; our team has six players on the roster. One of the four players scheduled to bowl could not make it. The entering average of the absent player with the most games puts the team over the league cap. What should the captain do?

According to Rule 104a, Item 1, it is the team captain's responsibility to ensure the eligibility of the team. Therefore, the captain must change players to meet the cap. If it is not possible to meet the cap, a postponement should be requested.

118e. Establish New Average due to Change in Delivery

If because of injury or disability a bowler finds it necessary to change delivery from right- to left-handed or vice-versa, the league's board of directors, by majority vote, may permit the bowler to change delivery. If approval is obtained, the bowler must establish a new average.

118e/1 May a bowler switch his/her delivery after the start of the season due to injury?

Yes. However, the bowler is required to obtain permission from the league's board of directors. If the bowler were later able to return to their original hand delivery, permission would again have to be obtained from the board. No combination of scores bowled both right- and left-handed can be used in computing an average. Therefore, two separate averages would have to be maintained. A bowler who switches without permission forfeits those games.

Rule 119 - Protest/Appeal Procedures

The league's board of directors shall first decide on all protests as stated in Rule 103b. Protests are decided by the league official/supervisor in Youth leagues that do not have a board.

a. Protests:

1. Written protests are filed with a league officer and shall be filed within 15 days of the series being bowled except:



- a) A protest resulting from competition in the final two weeks of a league schedule shall be filed within 72 hours of the final date of the league schedule or the end of a segment if the league bowls a split season.
 - b) A protest involving league playoff games shall be filed within 72 hours.
2. Unless a protest is confirmed in writing, the series or decision stands.
 3. The board's decision shall stand, unless a timely written appeal is filed with the local association or USBC Headquarters. The local association's decision can be appealed to USBC Headquarters.

NOTE: League protests received by local associations or USBC Headquarters that have not initially been decided by the league's board of directors will be returned to the league for a decision.

- b. Appeals shall be filed in writing within:
 1. 15 days of notification during the regular schedule.
 2. 72 hours when notification occurs:
 - a) In the final two weeks of the league schedule.
 - b) At the end of a segment if the league bowls a split season.
 - c) After the league schedule has ended.
 - d) As a result of playoff competition.

Prizes for positions involved cannot be distributed until the protest or appeal is resolved.

NOTE: A copy of the appeal should be filed with a league officer.

119/1 Does the board have to make a decision on a verbal protest?
 No, however the president may call a meeting to address a verbal protest. USBC Rule 119 requires the board to act on all written protests filed within specific timelines.

Rule 120 – Position Matches

A rule may be adopted to include position matches in the schedule subject to the following:

- a. Teams shall be paired according to its league position standings and games bowled count as won and lost.
- b. Ties for position pairings shall be determined by total pinfall without handicap, unless otherwise provided by league rule.

120/1 If teams bowl against the wrong opponents during the position round or regular schedule, can the games be bowled over, or can the scores be compared with the proper opponents?
 USBC holds the games stand as bowled and are entered in the record for games won or lost as well as for individual averages. The league continues with the regular schedule after discovering the error.
 Comparing scores with the proper opponents changes the competitive circumstances under which the match was bowled.



120/2 The league bowls a position round the last week and after bowling, there is a tie for first place. Do the teams involved bowl another complete 10th frame to determine the champion?

No. According to Rule 113a, a playoff would be bowled to determine the champion. In accordance with Rule 113b, Item 1(a), if the league does not have rules to govern the playoff, it would be conducted under the same rules that apply during the regular season. For instance, if the league bowls three games each session using the seven-point system (two points awarded for each game, plus one point for total pins), the playoff would consist of three games using the seven-point system. Another complete 10th frame is bowled only if a tie still exists at the end of the playoff.

120/3 How are lanes assigned for position matches?

There are several possibilities, and a league can adopt the format its members prefer. The most common method is to schedule the first and second place teams on the first pair of lanes; the third and fourth place teams on the next pair, etc. Another possibility is to have one team captain for each match draw for a pair of lanes.

The only basic requirement is teams be scheduled against opponents according to league standings. If the league does not have a rule on assigning lanes, the board makes the decision. (See Rule 103b.)

120/4 Can a substitute be used in a position round or a playoff?

Yes, a substitute may be used provided the league has not adopted a rule stating otherwise.

Rule 121 – League Fees

League fees consist of the total paid for bowling, the prize fund and any other amount voted by the league.

All league fees, including any entry or sponsor fee, shall be decided by the league.

Youth leagues: When an awards fee is collected as part of the league fees, it must be returned 100 percent to the league members in the form of trophies or other acceptable awards.

NOTE: Failure to pay league fees could result in suspension of USBC membership. (See Rule 115b.)

Rule 122 – Meetings

League meetings are conducted under the following requirements:

- a. The secretary shall notify the members or team captains of all league meetings.
- b. To conduct business, a quorum must be in attendance. In youth leagues, the league supervisor or official must also be in attendance.
- c. Absentee and proxy votes are not acceptable. Only members present are eligible to vote.

Rules shall be adopted at a meeting prior to the start of the league schedule by the board of directors, unless the league elects to have its rules adopted by the membership. After the league schedule begins, a change in the league rules and approved prize list can be made only with the written consent of every team captain or designated representative.

122/1 If a rule is adopted or changed after the league schedule starts, when does it become effective?

When a league adopts new or changes existing rules, the rule revisions become effective immediately upon adoption and cannot be made retroactive.



Chapter 5: Sport Bowling

The USBC Sport Bowling program consists of leagues and tournaments where lane conditions are controlled to place the emphasis on the bowler's skills. To be officially recognized, a USBC Sport Bowling league or tournament must be registered on the Sport Bowling section of bowl.com prior to the beginning of competition.

The following rules were approved by USBC in accordance with the authority granted it in Article 4, Section E of the USBC Bylaws. The rules included in this chapter are unique to Sport Bowling. In the absence of a rule or specification, the USBC rules and specifications governing standard leagues and tournaments shall be followed for Sport Bowling competition.

Rule 200 - Definition of Sport Bowling

200a. League

A Sport Bowling league is defined as a league meeting the following requirements:

1. The league is registered with USBC prior to the start of competition.
2. The league's entire schedule takes place in a center in compliance with Rule 206b.
3. All rules and specifications for Sport Bowling are adhered to.
4. Local association(s) with jurisdiction must be utilizing WinLABS.

200b. Tournament

A Sport Bowling tournament is defined as a tournament meeting the following requirements:

1. The tournament is registered with USBC prior to the start of competition.
2. All competition takes place in a center in compliance with Rule 206b.
3. All rules and specifications for Sport Bowling are adhered to.

Rule 201 - Membership

All bowlers participating in USBC Sport Bowling leagues must pay or provide proof of payment of the Sport Bowling membership dues in addition to all required standard USBC membership dues. Unless required by tournament rule, participants in Sport Bowling tournaments are not required to be Sport Bowling members.

Substitutes in USBC Sport Bowling leagues are permitted to participate in one league session per season without the requirement to purchase Sport Bowling membership if they have already purchased USBC standard membership for the current season. Only USBC Sport Bowling members are eligible for USBC Sport Bowling awards.

Basic USBC membership dues for USBC Lifetime members will be paid by the organization, but the bowler is responsible for paying the additional Sport Bowling dues.



Rule 202 – Average Adjustment

202a. Scale

The scale found on page 67 would be used to adjust Sport Bowling averages upward, as required, for use in standard competition.

202b. Sport to Standard League

A bowler must submit and use his/her adjusted Sport Bowling league average utilizing the USBC Average Adjustment Scale (see Rule 202a) and identify themselves as a Sport Bowler if the:

1. Bowler is entering a standard league; and
2. The league's entering average rule requires the bowler to use the average; and
3. Bowler does not have a standard league average from the same season(s) specified in the league's entering average rule as the Sport Bowling average.

A bowler is required to submit his/her adjusted Sport Bowling league average utilizing the USBC Average Adjustment Scale (see Rule 202a) in leagues that use composite averages for entering and/or handicap purposes.

Nothing in this rule supersedes the league's authority to adjust a bowler's adjusted average higher prior to entering. A bowler's failure to comply with these provisions could result in forfeiture of games bowled.

202c. Standard to Sport League

In sport bowling leagues, prior to participation, the entering average of a participant with only a standard league average may be adjusted downward by the league's board of directors utilizing the USBC Average Adjustment Scale (see Rule 202a). If such an average is adjusted downward, the league's board of directors cannot adjust it lower than the corresponding sport league average listed in the scale.

202d. Sport to Standard Tournament

A bowler must submit and use his/her adjusted Sport Bowling league average utilizing the USBC Average Adjustment Scale (see Rule 202a) and identify themselves as a Sport Bowler if the:

1. Bowler is participating in a standard tournament; and
2. Tournament's entering average rule requires the bowler to use the average; and
3. Bowler does not have a standard league average from the same season(s) specified in the tournament's entering average rule as the Sport Bowling average.

A bowler is required to submit his/her adjusted Sport Bowling league average utilizing the USBC Average Adjustment Scale (see Rule 202a) in tournaments that use composite averages for entering and/or handicap purposes.

Compliance with Rule 319a, Item 2 and Rule 319e will be determined based on the bowler's adjusted Sport Bowling league average using the USBC Average Adjustment Scale (see Rule 202a) or his/her standard league average, whichever applies.



Nothing in this rule supersedes tournament management's authority to adjust the bowler's adjusted average higher prior to bowling. A bowler's failure to comply with these provisions could result in disqualification.

202e. Standard to Sport Tournament

In Sport Bowling tournaments, prior to participation, the entering average of a participant with only a standard league average may be adjusted downward by tournament management utilizing the USBC Average Adjustment Scale (see Rule 202a). If such an average is adjusted downward, tournament management cannot adjust it lower than the corresponding sport league average listed in the scale.

Rule 203 – Lane Dressing/Lane Dressing Inspections

Each league or tournament is responsible for arranging lane dressing inspections as required by USBC for Sport Bowling leagues and tournaments. Games bowled on conditions not properly inspected or not complying with Sport Bowling lane dressing requirements, are not eligible for Sport Bowling awards and shall be issued standard USBC awards. (See the *Sport Bowling Technical Manual* in the Sport Bowling section of bowl.com for details.)

Rule 204 – Awards

Special enhanced awards will be issued to Sport Bowling members who participate in Sport Bowling competition when the provisions of Rules 203 and 205 have been met, for the following accomplishments:

Series Awards

900
800 to 899
Clean Series

Game Awards

300, 299
75 pins over average
11 strikes in a row, in a game of 298 or less

In the application of Rule 53, Sport Bowling averages can only be used when bowling in Sport Bowling competition.

A Sport Bowling member is eligible for one of each of the above awards per season. Standard USBC awards will be issued for all accomplishments not covered above. Scores bowled on noncomplying Sport Bowling conditions will be issued standard USBC awards.

Rule 205 - Equipment Restrictions

Equipment designated by USBC as not approved for use in Sport Bowling leagues and tournaments, cannot be used. Games bowled with unapproved Sport Bowling equipment are not eligible for USBC Sport Bowling awards and shall be subject to forfeiture/disqualification.



Rule 206 – Sport Certified Centers

206a. Requirements to Host Sport Bowling

To obtain and retain a Sport center certificate to host Sport Bowling competition, the center must:

- a. Be USBC certified.
- b. Have access to a tape take-up device and a computerized optical reader.
- c. Have registered the center online on SportBowling.com.
- d. Have an approved Sport Bowling lane dressing inspection on file with USBC Headquarters.
- e. Submit graphs and/or tapes every week for every competition.
- f. Be in compliance with all USBC certification requirements in addition to all Sport Bowling lane dressing requirements. (See the *Sport Bowling Technical Manual* in the Sport Bowling section of bowl.com for details.)

206b. Retention of Sport Center Certificate

Once a bowling center has demonstrated compliance with the requirements of Rule 206a, a certificate will be issued. The certificate is required for the center to host Sport Bowling competition. USBC retains the authority to withdraw the certificate at its discretion and/or if the center fails to continue to meet the requirements of Rule 206a. When USBC finds noncompliance with any of the requirements, the following will apply:

- a. The center will be notified by USBC Headquarters of the noncompliance and asked to correct the matter.
- b. If the noncompliance is not corrected before the next competition, USBC will issue a warning to the center.
- c. Any center accumulating two warnings within a 12-month period will have its certificate withdrawn.
- d. If an appeal to the certificate withdrawal is not received by USBC Headquarters within 10 days of notification, the decision will be final.
- e. If there is an appeal, it will be heard by a committee comprised of USBC Board Members.

Rule 207 – Submission of Scores/Prize Winnings

For Sport Bowling tournaments, the tournament manager shall be responsible for submitting all scores and a prize list to USBC Headquarters within 30 days of the tournament's conclusion.



**Sport League Average Adjustment to Standard Average
for the 2007-08 season. (August 1, 2007-July 31, 2008)**

Sport League Average	Adjusted Average	Sport League Average	Adjusted Average	Sport League Average	Adjusted Average
0-130	Same	160	169	190	205
131	131	161	170	191	206
132	133	162	171	192	207
133	135	163	173	193	208
134	136	164	175	194	209
135	139	165	177	195	209
136	141	166	178	196	210
137	142	167	181	197	210
138	144	168	182	198	210
139	145	169	184	199	211
140	146	170	186	200	212
141	147	171	188	201	213
142	147	172	189	202	214
143	148	173	190	203	215
144	149	174	191	204	216
145	149	175	192	205	217
146	150	176	193	206	218
147	151	177	194	207	219
148	154	178	195	208	220
149	155	179	196	209	220
150	157	180	197	210	221
151	158	181	198	211	222
152	159	182	199	212	223
153	160	183	200	213	224
154	162	184	201	214	224
155	163	185	202	215	224
156	164	186	203	216	225
157	165	187	204	217	226
158	167	188	205	218	227
159	168	189	205	219 and up	SL Ave +9



Chapter 6: Certified Tournament Rules

Rule 300 - Tournament

300a. Definition

A tournament is a competition, other than a league, in which the game of American tenpins is played. Competition can include one or more events.

Total pins will decide the champions and other prize winners in each of the events unless another system, based on merit pinfall, is stated in the tournament rules.

300b. Qualifications

On application to USBC Headquarters, a tournament certificate will be issued provided:

1. A copy of the entry form, tournament rules and advertising material is submitted with the tournament application prior to the start of the tournament. USBC Headquarters will determine the amount of coverage, if any, for tournament applications received after the tournament begins.

NOTE: These items should be submitted in draft form in advance for review by USBC Headquarters.

2. The tournament consists of two or more teams or a singles tournament of two or more individual entrants.
3. The lanes used are USBC certified for the current season.
4. Competition among entrants in an event, except all-events, is held in the same establishment, except as provided in Rule 302b, Mail-o-Graphic Tournament. When an event is divided into two or more divisions, competition in each division is held in the same establishment, except as provided in Rule 302b, Mail-o-Graphic tournament.

Notification that a tournament is certified, along with the starting and ending dates, will be sent to the local associations involved.

A tournament certificate may be refused if the tournament does not comply with the USBC rules, and/or the number or value of the prizes offered or guaranteed, are misrepresented.

300c. Eligibility

All entrants in a tournament must qualify under the rules of the tournament.

1. With the exception of the following, all participants must hold USBC membership or purchase associate membership prior to participation as indicated in Item 2 below:
 - a. A moral support tournament (see Rule 301a).
 - b. Tournaments that allow a participation fee of \$5 Adults, \$2 Youths. Payment of the fee prior to participation entitles the entrant to participate in that specific tournament only and subjects the bowler to the USBC rules and jurisdiction for that tournament. Participants who pay the participation fee are not eligible for USBC awards.



- c. A youth tournament that accepts all youth bowlers. (This would mean no tournament participation fee would be collected from nonmembers of USBC.) Only those who are USBC Youth members qualify for high score recognition. Only entrants who are USBC members before participation in the tournament are eligible for USBC awards.
2. An individual may apply for associate membership by paying:
 - a. Adults: National dues (\$10) plus the actual dues charged by the state and local association the bowler is joining. When state and local dues are not known, adult associate dues will be \$21 (\$10 national, \$10 local, \$1 state).
 - b. Youths: \$14 (\$9.50 national, \$4 local, \$.50 state).

When associate membership is obtained after March 15 of any season, the individual shall become a member for the balance of the current season and the next season.

Only entrants who are USBC members before participation in the tournament are eligible for USBC awards.

Rule 301 – Types of Tournaments

301a. Moral Support

A moral support tournament is one in which the tournament is conducted by a single civic, fraternal, benevolent, military service, union or religious organization. At the discretion of USBC, a tournament may be granted moral support status when:

1. It meets all of the requirements of Rule 300b.
2. Participation is restricted to those affiliated with the organization conducting the tournament.
3. Anyone under suspension from, or who has been refused membership in USBC or CTF, will not be allowed to participate.
4. International competition is provided for the bowlers not served by USBC, as long as the equipment conforms to USBC equipment specifications.

USBC members may participate in a moral support tournament with award recognition automatically extended. Eligible nonmembers may qualify for USBC award recognition by paying USBC associate membership dues before participation.

301b. Adult/Youth

An adult/youth tournament is one in which youth members bowl with adults and awards to both adult and youth bowlers conform with USBC Youth Membership Eligibility Rule 400. An adult/youth tournament may:

1. Adopt a rule to allow an adult's score to be matched to several youths' scores for the purpose of determining doubles totals. When allowed, all entries must be submitted with the corresponding fees, prior to the adult's participation. Handicap will be added if applicable.
2. Certify only the youth portion of the tournament and not require the adults to be members of USBC or pay the participation fee. Youth entrants who are USBC members before participation in the tournament are eligible for USBC awards.



301c. Scholarship

All USBC tournament applications must contain the following:

1. List of scholarship prizes being awarded.
2. Tournament rules and entry forms.

All scholarship tournaments must deposit its scholarship prize awards with the SMART program within 30 days after the end of the tournament.

301d. Pro-Am

Pro-am style tournaments conducted for a charitable organization, or in conjunction with a USBC tournament, may be granted a certificate under the following conditions:

1. Participants who are identified as professionals by tournament management may not share in the amateur prize distribution.
2. The score of the professional or organization member counts with the score of each designated amateur.
3. All other USBC rules apply to the competition, including tournament reporting requirements.

A pro-am style format in which pin count is conceded either to the amateur or professional can be certified by USBC as a modified format.

Rule 302 – Modified Formats

302a. Definition

USBC may certify tournament competition in which a modified game of American tenpins is played.

All USBC equipment specifications shall apply to such competition, and the rules for USBC tournaments shall apply insofar as practical.

USBC may permit modifications or variations in team play formats for the purposes of exhibition events, television bowling or playoff matches resulting from USBC tournament competition in the qualifying rounds. The results of such events should be included in the tournament's prize or awards programs. Only scores bowled using the standard American tenpin scoring system, as described in Rule 2a, qualify for USBC awards. Members are not eligible for any award based on his/her average.

NOTE: For types and descriptions of modified formats, see the *Tournament Managers Manual*.

302b. Mail-o-Graphic Tournament

A mail-o-graphic tournament is one in which scores are submitted from separate or the same competition, bowling establishment or association and are compared to qualify for prizes in one common prize list. The following provisions apply to all USBC mail-o-graphic tournaments:

1. All scores are submitted to the tournament manager who enters the scores and determines team and/or individual standings.



2. All scores used are from certified competition.
3. USBC will certify such tournaments provided:
 - a. All USBC equipment specifications apply.
 - b. All rules for USBC tournaments shall apply insofar as applicable.
 - c. Application must designate tournament as a mail-o-graphic tournament.
4. As the scores used in mail-o-graphic competition are already recognized in the certified competition in which they are actually bowled, they are not eligible for USBC national awards.

Rule 303 - Management

Tournament management has supervisory control of all technical parts of the operation of the tournament including the following:

- a. Drafting the schedule and prize list.
- b. Adopting and enforcing the tournament rules, provided they are not in conflict with any USBC rules.
- c. Deciding all disputes, complaints or protests involving any USBC or tournament rules, or appeals from the decision of tournament personnel.
- d. Deciding any matter about the operation of the tournament, when not inconsistent with the tournament rules or USBC rules.
- e. Accepting or rejecting any entrant.

The decision of tournament management shall be final except where an appeal is made to USBC Headquarters. (See Rule 329 for appeal procedures.)

NOTE: Disqualification procedures and sample letters can be found in the *Tournament Managers Manual*.

Rule 304 - Authority of Team Captain

The acceptance of an entry by tournament management constitutes an agreement by the captain on behalf of the team to abide by all rules of USBC and the tournament. The captain:

- a. Is the team representative and is responsible for:
 1. The lineup and conduct of the team in tournament play.
 2. Paying each member of the team within 30 days after receiving prize money in accordance with verbal or written agreements.
 3. Determining who bowls on the team in the team event. If the captain replaces a player originally entered in the team event, ample notice must be given to the player being replaced. If that player paid the entry fee, it must be returned except that any indebtedness may be withheld.
- b. Or an authorized representative may replace any team member who is unable to attend or compete at the scheduled time.
- c. Can, prior to bowling, request a replacement in the doubles and/or singles event, if the bowler originally entered agrees to being replaced.
- d. Cannot be removed except for a rules violation or for failure to appear to bowl when scheduled.



Youth tournaments: The adult leader who submitted the application is responsible for the above duties unless they have given this responsibility to the team captain.

Rule 305 – Fees

The management of a USBC tournament must publicize fees separately per event on the entry form and advertising material as follows:

- a. Prize/Awards Fee.
- b. Expense Fee.
- c. Total, per entrant, per event.

Prize and expense fees for all-events and special features may be charged, but must be listed separately. These, and other collections to qualify for participation, such as donations, subscriptions or banquet fees must be stated on the entry form and advertising material.

Youth tournaments: Where an “awards fee” is charged, all such fees collected must be returned 100 percent to the participants in the form of awards that comply with Youth eligibility requirements.

Rule 306 – All-Events

Participants in a tournament may be charged an optional fee for an all-events contest when two or more events are scheduled or when two or more tournaments are conducted under the same management. When an all-events fee is charged, the following apply:

- a. Expense fees may be charged for participation in an optional all-events contest when in accordance with the requirements in Rule 305.
- b. The all-events fee must be paid before the advertised closing date for entries or before the participant bowls any of the events, whichever comes first.
- c. An all-events entry can be transferred if the transfer is made before either of the bowlers involved have participated in any event of the tournament.
- d. Distribution of prizes shall comply with the formula prescribed for payment of regular position prizes and the ratio of return shall be at least one to 20 or major fraction thereof, unless the tournament rules state another prize ratio. Where a trophy or award, other than cash awards, is offered for the all-events championship, the bowler who places first in all-events is entitled to the award even if the bowler did not pay the optional fee. In such instances, the trophy or award cannot be considered as part of the all-events prize fund, and must be purchased from other funds.

Youth tournaments

- e. The all-events fee shall not be greater than the highest awards fee charged for any event of the tournament.



Rule 307 – Special Features

Prize fees may be charged for one or more optional special feature events, subject to the following:

- a. These events are open to all eligible entrants who qualify in accordance with tournament rules.
- b. Expense fees may be charged for participation in an optional special feature contest when published in accordance with the requirements of Rule 305.
- c. Distribution of special feature prizes shall comply with the formula prescribed for payment of regular position prizes, unless otherwise stated in tournament rules.

Rule 308 – Distribution of Prize Funds

The sponsor and management of a USBC tournament undertake a fiduciary obligation that all funds provided by that part of the entry fee designated as prize fee, but not including interest thereon, shall be held in trust for the exclusive benefit of tournament participants. Such funds cannot be used for any other purpose.

All prize money collected in an event or division of an event must be returned to the participants in that event or division of that event, except where replacements or correction of averages require a change of classification. In that case, prizes will be distributed to reflect the actual number of participants in the event or division of the event.

USBC may, at its discretion, require a bond or in lieu thereof, a satisfactory assurance that the prize fund obligations will be met.

The following prize fund requirements apply, unless otherwise provided by tournament rule:

- a. The last place prize, including those paid for each last place tie, must be equal to at least the amount of the prize fee in the event.
- b. In team, doubles and singles events there shall be at least one prize for each 10 entries or major fraction thereof.
- c. If special prizes exceed 25 percent of the prize fund in an event or division of an event, and a bowler or team can qualify for both a special and position prize, all prizes won by a bowler or team count as one prize in determining the ratio of one prize for each 10 entries. Special prizes may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 1. Scratch prizes in a handicap event.
 2. Single game prizes.
 3. Limited group prizes, such as early bird, average category, sponsor and weekend prizes, etc. Squad prizes to which all participants in an event are eligible are not defined as special prizes.
- d. When there are 100 or more entries in an event or division of an event, first place or the amount spent from the prize fund for a first-place prize, shall not exceed 40 percent of the total prize fund. Second place must be equal to at least one-half of first place or the amount spent from the prize fund for first place.



- e. When special prizes are offered and a team or individual can win a position and a special prize, the total prize paid to second place shall be at least one-half the combined total of first place plus the special prize of greatest value.

Rule 309 - Prize Payment and Report

The following requirements must be met by tournament management within 30 days after the end of the tournament:

- a. Distribute all prizes except when USBC Headquarters has authorized delay in payment.
- b. Submit the following to USBC Headquarters:
 1. A prize list with the name and score of each prize winner and the prize issued.
 2. A financial statement listing all prize receipts and disbursements.
 3. Associate membership and participation fees received and a list of those paying such fees.
- c. For tournaments with scholarship prizes, in addition to the above requirements, all scholarship prize awards must be forwarded to USBC Headquarters for deposit with the SMART program.

Rule 310 - Entries Close

310a. In Advance

If the date for closing entries is before the opening day of the tournament, the following shall apply:

1. Advance notification of time and date of participation must be given to team captains and individual entrants.
2. All entries postmarked the first post office business day after the entry closing date shall be accepted. Additional entries for any event shall not be accepted after that date.
3. If a schedule is not published, a complete list of entrants must be available for review upon request.
4. Tournament management cannot show in the schedule "partner," "reserved" or similar term instead of a team or individual entry.

310b. Prior to Last Squad

When the date for closing of entries is set prior to the time the last squad is scheduled, the tournament management shall:

1. Include in the rules the following:
 - a. Exact time the last squad is scheduled to start;
 - b. Exact time for closing of entries.
2. Have the following information available upon request:
 - a. Number of entries to date;
 - b. The high score in each event or division of each event.

Tournament management shall not accept additional entries after the closing of entries.



Rule 311 – Submitting Entries

Acceptance of a written entry by tournament management for one or more events regulates the number of players who are eligible to participate. The entry form must contain the names of the players entered. The required fees must be received by tournament management by the closing date or the time entrants are scheduled to bowl, whichever occurs first.

Rule 312 – Conditions Cannot Change

The conditions under which entries are accepted cannot be changed or modified after the tournament starts, unless otherwise directed by USBC Headquarters. This includes entry fee charges and the rules governing the competition.

Rule 313 – Free or Reduced Entries

When a free or reduced entry is given, an amount equal to the prize fee for such entry must be paid into the tournament prize fund by management.

Rule 314 – No Fees Returned

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.

Rule 315 – Multiple Participation

Unless the tournament rules state otherwise:

- a. Participation in each event shall be limited to one time.
- b. In order to place more than once in the prize list for positions standings:
 1. Five- and four-player team event. At least two players in the lineup must be different.
 2. Three-player team and doubles event. At least one player in the lineup must be different.
- c. In a singles event, the same individual may not place more than once.
- d. The bowler's first appearance in each event counts toward the all-events total.

Rule 316 – Singles Event Squad

In singles tournaments, a minimum of two entries constitutes a squad and these entries must bowl on the same pair of lanes. If a bowler competes alone as a squad, the score shall be disqualified.

Rule 317 – Handicap – Youth Competition

When tournament winners are determined by using a handicap system, the following requirements must be met:

- a. Handicap must be based on a known average prior to the start of competition.



- b. Handicap may not be limited and the full handicap allowance must be given.
- c. When handicap is assigned on a game basis, fractions must be dropped prior to determining the handicap.
- d. When handicap is assigned on a series basis, the handicap shall be calculated on the difference of the player's series average and the scratch series handicap basis. Rounding up is prohibited.

Rule 318 – Averages – Youth Competition

The following applies to all youth competitors unless tournament rules state otherwise:

- a. When a bowler has more than one youth league average, and the individual average is used to determine the handicap or classification of the bowler or his/her team, the highest USBC youth league average based on a minimum of nine games shall be used.
- b. If an error occurs in the classification of an individual or team, which is detected prior to the awards distribution, correction to proper placement must be made and the score recalculated, with no penalty, unless the tournament rules indicate disqualification.
- c. Rules 319a and 319c through 319e do not apply.

Rule 319 – Averages

319a. Conditions that Apply

The following conditions apply to averages in handicap or classified tournaments, unless the tournament rules state otherwise, except that only USBC league averages shall be accepted. (See Rule 319c for average adjustment.)

- 1. Individual averages must be based on a minimum of 21 games in a USBC league. Averages established in USBC leagues which start its schedules after March 15 for the summer season shall be accepted as official, provided the bowler does not have an acceptable regular season average.
- 2. When the previous season's average is used, and at the time of bowling an entrant has a current average for 21 or more games that is 10 pins or more higher than the prior season's average, the current average must be used.
- 3. Bowlers are responsible for verifying his/her own average, whether submitted by the bowler, the team captain or others. If the submitted average is lower than required and results in a lower classification or more handicap, the bowler's score is disqualified. If the submitted average is higher than required, prize winnings will be based on the submitted average. In the case of a team of two or more bowlers, the averages will be combined to determine if the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total.
- 4. Average corrections can be made up to the end of the bowler's first game of a series. Or, if an extension of time has been granted in writing by tournament management before the end of the first game of a series, the correction can be made within 48 hours after the end of the series.
- 5. When an association publishes a yearbook, a tournament using previous season averages to determine handicap or classification, shall use the yearbook to verify averages, if furnished, and not require the association to verify averages from that association.



319a/1 The tournament rules require bowlers to use their highest average from the previous season. A bowler has an established previous season left-handed average of 150 and a 175 right-handed average. He plans to bowl with his left hand in the tournament. Which average would he use?

The tournament rules require all bowlers to use their highest average. Therefore, he would have to use his 175 average, regardless of whether he bowled with his right or left hand.

319b. Assigned Averages

A bowler who does not have an acceptable average under tournament rules will bowl scratch, unless the rules specify a minimum average that will be assigned by tournament management prior to participation.

Tournament management has the authority to assign an average higher than the minimum average prior to participation.

319c. Average Adjustments (Rerating)

The average of a bowler may be adjusted upward before participation in any event. If the assigned average is not accepted by the bowler, the entry fee shall be refunded.

319c/1 I entered a house tournament with my 175 league average. Prior to bowling they adjusted my average to 190. Can I appeal this adjustment to USBC?

No, USBC is not in a position to substitute our judgment for that of tournament management in that they would have first hand knowledge of the situation at hand. In accordance with Rule 319c, the only condition USBC can impose is that the adjustment must be accomplished before the entrant bowls, and if the adjustment is not accepted by the entrant, his/her entry fee shall be returned. The exception is the local and state championship tournament conducted by the association. Such adjustments may be appealed to USBC within 15 days of the date of bowling or prior to the payment of prizes, whichever comes first.

319d. Reporting Prior Prize Winnings

A handicap or classified tournament may require a bowler to report any previous tournament prize winnings as a condition for entry.

In a handicap or classified tournament that does not have such a rule, anyone who has qualified* for a cash and/or merchandise prize of \$600 or more in the position standings prize list in any event in a tournament, including all-events, special features, special prizes and donated prizes, within the last 12-month period, must give tournament management the following information prior to participation, for possible average adjustment:

1. The name of each tournament in which they have been paid such a prize, or if not yet paid, in which they have qualified for the prize.
2. The amount of the prize.
3. The actual score bowled to qualify for the prize.
4. The prize position.

Failure to comply with these provisions is cause for a forfeiture of entry fees and prize winnings.



NOTE: *Qualified is defined as the date and time the tournament officially ended (completion of the last squad or round of competition), or payment of prizes, whichever comes first.

All bowlers regardless of average must comply with the provision of Rule 319d.

Prize winnings from certified and noncertified tournaments, including those using a modified format of American tenpins (example: 9 pin tap), must be used in the application of this rule.

319d/1 A tournament requires bowlers to report tournament prize winnings of \$600 or more in the past 12 months. Recently I won \$1000 in a non certified tournament. Do I have to report these winnings?

Yes, all bowlers are required to report prize winnings of \$600 or more from certified and non certified tournaments, including those using a modified format of American Tenpins.

319d/2 Does a scratch bowler bowling in a house tournament have to report prize winnings of \$600 or more in accordance with Rule 319d?

Yes, anyone who has qualified for a prize of \$600 or more must report this information regardless of what their average is. By not reporting this information, tournament management was not afforded the opportunity to review the information for possible rejection of the entry.

319e. Average Adjustment for Entry

NOTE: All certified and noncertified scores from the game of American tenpins must be used in the application of this rule.

Unless the tournament rules state otherwise, the following applies in a handicap or classified tournament:

1. The bowler is responsible for keeping a record of the names, dates, scores, and prize winnings in all tournaments entered in the previous 12 months, including those still running. These include all tournament scores bowled in accordance with the game of American tenpins.
2. A bowler shall adjust his/her entering average if, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the time and date of bowling, the bowler's accumulated average for all, but not less than 21 tournament games, exceeds the average to be used for entry by 15 or more pins. In that case, the accumulated average must be used for handicapping or classification purposes.
 - a. A bowler whose tournament scores require an adjustment must submit the adjusted average in writing before the end of the first game in a tournament, unless tournament rules allow for such adjustment to be made within a specified time after bowling.
 - b. Failure to use the adjusted average in accordance with the foregoing is cause for forfeiture of entry fees and prize winnings, and the bowler is subject to suspension of membership in USBC.

On appeal or protest, the bowler must promptly supply the record of the names, dates, scores and prizes won — or scores that qualify to win — in all tournaments in which the bowler competed within the previous 12 months.



Nothing in this rule supersedes tournament management's authority to adjust the bowler's average higher prior to bowling.

319f. Canadian Tenpin Federation Averages

USBC will recognize averages established in leagues under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Tenpin Federation (CTF) for entry purposes in USBC tournaments provided:

1. Adult averages are based on a minimum of 21 games and youth averages are based on a minimum of 9 games, unless tournament rules state another number.
2. All USBC equipment and certification specifications apply to the bowling centers in which the averages are established.
3. All USBC general playing rules apply to the league(s) in which the averages are established.
4. Tournament rules do not exclude CTF averages.

Rule 320 – Tournament Game/Series

320a. Two Lanes Required

Bowling shall begin in accordance with a previously arranged schedule. Two lanes immediately adjoining each other shall be used in each game of tournament play.

The first game of a series starts on the lane where the team or individual is scheduled. Succeeding games start on the lane on which the team or individual finished the preceding game, unless each complete game is bowled on a different pair of lanes.

320b. Order of Bowling

Members of competing teams, doubles and individual entrants shall successively and in regular order bowl one frame on one lane, and for the next frame alternate and use the other lane until five frames are bowled on each lane of the pair.

Rule 321 – Interrupted Game/Series

If equipment failure on a pair of lanes would delay the progress of the game/series, tournament officials can authorize the completion of a game/series on another pair of certified lanes. The interrupted game/series must be resumed from the point of interruption.

Rule 322 – Players

322a. Tardy Players

1. Unless the tournament rules allow missed frames to be made up, a player or team missing one or more frames by not being present and ready to bowl in turn shall:
 - a. Begin play with the score to count from the frame then being bowled.
 - b. Not be credited with any pins for the frames missed.



2. If a team refuses to start because a full lineup is not present, tournament management, at its discretion, can declare the game forfeited.
3. A bowler must bowl on the same lanes and at the same time his/her team bowls.

322b. Absentee/Vacancy Scores

Adult tournaments: No absentee or vacancy scores shall be permitted.

Youth tournaments: Unless otherwise stated in the tournament rules:

1. An absentee score must be accepted in a prepaid four- or five-player team tournament if an individual does not show.
2. Only one absentee score per team may be used.
3. The absentee score for each game shall be the absent member's entering average less 10 pins, plus handicap.

Rule 323 – Pacers

Unless otherwise provided by tournament rules, pacers are permitted subject to the following:

- a. Scores bowled as a pacer shall not count in determining prize winners.
- b. A pacer cannot later enter or compete in the tournament, unless the tournament rules permit multiple participation.
- c. If a pacer is a USBC member, any scores bowled as a pacer are eligible for USBC individual awards.

Rule 324 – Lineup Changes

324a. Prior to Squad

If a change in a team or doubles lineup is desired, it must be requested at least 30 minutes before the time the entrants are scheduled to bowl, unless otherwise stated in the tournament rules.

Thereafter, no player shall change position in any team or doubles lineup after the player has been checked onto the lanes to bowl, unless authorized by the tournament official in charge. Violation may be cause for disqualification.

If a replacement is needed on each of two teams, the entrants present may be paired together.

324b. Substitutions During Game or Series

After a series has started, substitutions can only be made using the following guidelines:

1. Team or doubles series:
 - a. The captain can replace any player with a qualified substitute at any time but no changes can be made in the order of the players.
 - b. A player removed during a game cannot return to bowl in that game.
 - c. The score of the game is credited to the starting player.
2. Singles event:



- a. No substitutions can be made except in tournaments where two or more series or blocks of games are bowled. In such events, substitutes may be permitted at the discretion of tournament management.
- b. A player removed cannot return for the balance of the competition.

Scores bowled through the efforts of more than one individual player do not qualify for USBC awards, tournament individual awards, other than position standings prizes, nor can the scores be included in the all-events total.

Rule 325 – Team Bowling Alone

The following applies when a team or individual is scheduled alone on a pair of lanes except team tournaments which, by rule, schedule each team alone and permits the members to follow each other immediately in order on the alternate lane:

- a. Games must be bowled as though they were contested.
- b. Each player must complete a frame on one lane before the player bowling lead off starts the next frame on the adjoining lane.
- c. Match play tournaments may establish target scores, for purposes of determining whether teams qualify for bonus points, when there is less than a full complement of teams.

Rule 326 – Tie for Championship

326a. Playoff/Co-Champions

When there is a tie for any championship in a tournament, it is optional with tournament management to have a playoff or declare co-champions. However, if there is a duplication of personnel on the tied teams, Rule 326b applies.

1. Co-Champions:
 - a. The cash prizes for the positions affected are to be equally divided.
 - b. Tournament management is required to supply additional medals or awards it makes to champions, which are emblematic of co-championships, from a fund other than the prize fund.
2. Playoff:
 - a. In match game or elimination tournaments, the number of games or frames played in deciding ties shall be determined by tournament management.
 - b. In other tournaments, one game shall be played in deciding all ties, unless otherwise specified in the tournament rules, but under no conditions may the playoff consist of less than one delivery.
 - c. In playing off a first-place tie, the team or individual scoring the highest is entitled to all first place prizes, except the optional all-events cash prize is dependent on whether the winner is eligible. The team or individual with the next highest score is entitled to second prize, etc.
3. Ties for other than first prize and position shall be decided by tournament management.



326b. Multiple Participation Tournaments

When multiple participation is permitted in a tournament and one or more bowlers are members of the teams tied for the championship, the following procedure applies in deciding the championship.

1. When two or more teams are tied, and the same bowlers are duplicated on all of the tied teams, co-champions may be declared. If a playoff is conducted, only those members not duplicated on the teams shall bowl in the playoff series.
2. If three or more teams are tied, and the same bowlers are not duplicated on all of the tied teams, co-champions must be declared.

Rule 327 – Scoring Process

327a. Scorers

A tournament is required to have official scorers to record all games bowled in the tournament or use a USBC approved automatic scoring device.

If a full complement of scorers is not available and the bowlers affected cannot be rescheduled, they may be allowed to record his/her own scores under supervision of tournament management.

In match game tournaments where the pin count is not carried forward, tournament management may authorize the competing players to keep score.

327b. Scoring Errors

After a score has been recorded, it cannot be changed unless there is an obvious error in scoring or calculation. Obvious errors must be corrected by a tournament official immediately upon discovery. Questionable errors shall be decided by tournament management.

Tournament management may, by rule, set a time limit for the correction of errors.

327c. Loss of Scores

A tournament game or frame(s) within a game that is irretrievably lost in the scoring process may be rebowled with approval of tournament management, unless prohibited by rule. The decision of tournament management shall be final, except where an appeal is made in accordance with Rule 329, Item b.

Rule 328 – Changing Delivery

In handicap and classified tournaments, once the bowler has taken his/her first shot, he/she shall continue to use that hand throughout the tournament unless, due to injury, the bowler finds it impossible to continue bowling with the same hand. The bowler may seek approval of the tournament director to continue with the opposite hand.



Penalty: Disqualification in the event in which the violation occurs and loss of entry fee for that event.

Rule 329 – Protests and Appeals

Protests and appeals must be in writing stating the grounds for the protest or appeal.

- a. A protest involving eligibility or playing rules must be filed with tournament management and:
 1. **Adult tournaments:** Before tournament prizes are paid.
 2. **Youth tournaments:** Within 72 hours of the infraction.
- b. The decision of the tournament management shall be final, unless a written appeal is filed with the local association or USBC Headquarters and:
 1. **Adult tournaments:** Prior to tournament prizes being paid.
 2. **Youth tournaments:** Within 72 hours of notice of the decision.

Upon notification of a protest or appeal, tournament manager must withhold all affected prizes until the protest or appeal is resolved.

The decision of the local association may also be appealed to USBC Headquarters. The decision of USBC Headquarters is final and binding on all involved parties.

329/1 What is the deadline to file a protest?

In accordance with USBC Rule 329, in USBC adult tournaments, a protest regarding eligibility or playing rules must be confirmed in writing and filed with tournament management, the local association, or to USBC prior to the payment of tournament prizes.

In USBC youth tournaments, a protest regarding eligibility or playing rules must be confirmed in writing and filed with tournament management within 72 hours of the infraction.



Chapter 7: Equipment Specifications and Certifications

NOTE: The following are some of the specifications USBC has implemented. The *USBC Equipment Specifications Manual* containing all USBC equipment specifications, including detailed information on all revised measurement and material specifications, is available on bowl.com.

Section 1. Bowling Ball Specifications

a. Approved Equipment

1. Bowling balls used in competition must be USBC approved and identifiable as a ball listed in the “Approved Bowling Balls” list located on the Specifications/Certifications page of bowl.com.
2. For identification purposes, each ball must have some form of serial number (this may be engraved or re-engraved by the bowler), manufacturer’s name/logo and ball name. Since all bowling balls manufactured prior to the creation of the ball list (January 1991) have been previously approved, the acceptance of these balls is at the discretion of the tournament management or league official.

If my bowling ball’s serial number has been removed or is no longer visible on the ball, is it still legal/acceptable to use in USBC competition?

If the serial number can no longer be identified, it must be replaced by engraving another serial number provided the ball’s original product name and manufacturer’s name are still visible. The manufacturer’s name, product name and the serial number must be visible for the ball to be used in USBC competition. These items must be included to verify that it is an approved ball. (See USBC Equipment Specifications — Bowling Balls)

b. Surface

1. The surface of a ball must be free of all depressions or grooves of specific pattern, except for:
 - a) Holes or indentations used for gripping the ball
 - b) Identification letters and numbers,
 - c) Incidental chipping or marring caused by wear.
2. No foreign material may be placed on the outer surface of the ball.
3. The introduction of metal or any other substance not comparable to the original material used in the manufacture of the ball is prohibited.
4. If the surface friction of the ball is altered by sanding or polishing, the entire surface of the ball must be sanded or polished in a uniform manner.

c. Plugs and Designs

1. Must be of material similar to, although not exactly the same as, the original material out of which the ball was made; and shall otherwise comply with all bowling ball specifications.
2. Plugs may be inserted for the purpose of redrilling a ball.
3. Plugs and grips may not exceed beyond the surface of the ball.
4. Designs may be embedded in a ball as guides, or observation or identification purposes, provided the designs are flush with the outer surface of the ball.

In all cases there shall be no interior voids.



- d. **Weight** – The weight of the ball shall not exceed 16.00 pounds. There is no minimum weight.
- e. **Hardness**
 - 1. The surface hardness of a ball shall be not less than 72 Durometer “D.”
 - 2. The use of chemicals, solvents or other methods to change the surface hardness of the ball is prohibited. (See Rule 18, Bowling Ball – Altering Surface.)
- f. **Cleaning** – Cleaners may be used provided:
 - 1. They do not affect the hardness of the ball.
 - 2. They are totally removed from the ball before delivery.
 Any ball cleaner which does not conform to any of these provisions may not be used in USBC certified competition.

A complete list of approved/non approved ball cleaners is available on bowl.com.

Section 2. Drilling Specifications

- a. **Holes** - The following limitations govern drilling holes in a bowling ball:
 - 1. Holes or indentations, not to exceed five, for gripping purposes.
 - 2. One hole for balance purposes, not to exceed 1-1/4 inch in diameter.
 - 3. One (1) vent hole to each finger and/or thumb hole, not to exceed 1/4 inch in diameter.
 - 4. One mill hole for inspection purposes, not to exceed 5/8 inch in diameter and 1/8 inch in depth.
- b. **Balance** - The following tolerances are allowed in the balance of the ball:
 - 1. For a ball weighing 10.01 pounds or more:
 - a) Not more than three ounces difference between the top of ball (finger hole side) and the bottom (solid side opposite finger holes).
 - b) Not more than one ounce difference between the sides to the right and left of the finger holes or between the sides in front and back of the finger holes.
 - 2. For a ball weighing 8.0 pounds to 10.0 pounds:
 - a) Not more than two ounces difference between the top of the ball and the bottom.
 - b) Not more than 3/4 ounce difference between the sides to the right and left or between the front and back of the finger holes.
 - 3. For a ball weighing less than 8.0 pounds:
 - a) Not more than 3/4 ounce difference between the top of the ball and the bottom.
 - b) Not more than 3/4 ounce difference between the sides to the right and left or between the front and back of the finger holes.

Altering a ball in any way, to increase its weight or cause it to be out of balance beyond the tolerances, is prohibited.

A complete list of drilling specifications is available in the *USBC Equipment Specifications Manual* which can be found on bowl.com.



Section 3. Bowler Center Certificates

Failure to comply with any equipment specification shall constitute grounds for score denials and suspension or withholding of membership of all persons involved, including owners, managers and maintenance personnel.

- a. **Application/Inspection.** When a bowling center requests certification, the association manager shall ensure an inspection is done. The lanes and equipment would be measured and inspected for compliance with physical specifications.
- b. **Issuance.** On submission of an application, if it is determined that the terms of certification and all other requirements have been met, a certificate will be issued.
- c. **Representation.** A certificate issued to a bowling center shall be displayed in the center. By doing so, the owner and all operational personnel represent that its best effort will be given to insure that all bowling equipment, lane dressing and its distribution meets and continues to meet all requirements for certified competition.
- d. **Dressing.** If dressing is used, it shall meet specifications and must comply with the following:
 1. Dressing must be applied from edgeboard to edgeboard for the entire distance that dressing is applied.
 2. Following any application of dressing, in the dressed portion of the lane there shall be a minimum of three (3) units of dressing at all points on the lane surface.
- e. **Suspended/Withdrawn.**
 1. In the event a certificate is temporarily suspended or withdrawn, any bowler who withdraws from a league in the bowling center shall be deemed to have done so for a satisfactory reason for the purposes of Rule 114a.
 2. The USBC may authorize issuance of membership to members of leagues desiring to be certified and committed to bowl in a bowling center in which a bowling center certificate is not in effect. All members of such leagues must apply for membership.
 3. Privileges and services will be provided to members of such leagues, but shall not include recognition of averages, all pins over average awards, all national recognition awards, 11-in-a-row and 300 games and 700 and 800 series or better. Such privileges and services may not be extended for more than one season, or longer than one.

Section 4. Pins

- a. Pins used in competition shall only bear the name and trademark of the original manufacturer or distributor and be marked "USBC Approved." Except for reasonable wear and color, the pins in each set must be uniform in appearance including finish and labels.
- b. The coating of the pin must be transparent (clear) or solid color with the exception of the neck markings, identifying symbols or name which must be clearly visible or of a contrasting color. Standard all wood or plastic coated pins shall bear the same labels and permit numbers and shall not vary more than four ounces in each set.
- c. Synthetic pins shall bear the same labels and permit numbers and shall not vary more than two ounces in each set.



Chapter 8: Bonding, Burglary and Holdup Insurance

The USBC maintains a policy of bonding, burglary and holdup insurance for all chartered associations and the officers of certified leagues. The bonding, burglary and holdup insurance coverage described in this chapter is available through a policy of insurance issued to the USBC by an independent licensed insurance company. The policy covers:

1. Misuse of Funds. A shortage attributable to dishonesty by a league or association officer.
2. The taking of funds from an officer, or the centers messenger, by violence or threat of violence.
3. Funds taken through the forcible entry into the premises or locked receptacle, where the funds are kept, of an officer or the center's messenger. There must be visible evidence of forcible entry. An on-site police report is required.

Any officer authorized by the league or association to sign contracts and act as a signatory on any account must be a minimum of 18 years of age.

No insurance coverage is available except as specifically set forth in the policies of insurance purchased by the USBC.

The surety company shall not be held liable for any loss which, on investigation in a given case, may have existed prior to the time the bond or insurance became effective.

The policies of insurance do not cover funds frozen through insolvency or liquidation of any financial institution. Further, the policies of insurance do not cover loss of funds due to bowling center insolvency or liquidation.

Dishonest Acts of League Officer

Leagues Officers are automatically bonded for up to \$10,000. Leagues with prize funds in excess of \$10,000 receive full coverage, provided the full amount of the prize fund is indicated on the league certification application when submitted to the local association.

The following conditions govern the method by which leagues must handle funds to qualify for 100 percent protection of any loss caused by the dishonest act of a league officer:

- ★ The league certification application and membership dues must be received within 42 days of the start of the schedule (30 days for summer leagues), counting the first day of competition.
- ★ Funds must be deposited within seven days in an insured bank, credit institution or an in-center banking service in the name of the league. The banking or credit institution must be a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or its equivalent.
- ★ In adult leagues, two officers who are at least 18 years old, authorized by the league must cosign for all withdrawals. Two members of an immediate family cannot cosign for withdrawals. If the president is



not the cosigner for withdrawals, his/her name must be identified with the account to enable the president to personally verify the amount on deposit.

- ★ Officers must be USBC members.
- ★ In youth leagues, the league supervisor and league official cosign for all withdrawals and cannot be immediate family members.
- ★ Signature stamps should not be used nor should checks be pre-signed
- ★ The league president (youth league supervisor) must personally verify the bank account each month. (See Rule 102c)

NOTE: “Verify” means the president must not only determine the amount on deposit, but also do the arithmetic necessary to determine how much should be on deposit. If the account is found to be short, the president must report the shortage immediately to USBC Headquarters for possible action under the bonding insurance policy.

Failure to meet the provisions of the policies of insurance will result in a 50 percent reduction of any documented loss.

The bond and insurance shall remain in force for continuing leagues not only to the end of the season, but for the so-called off season until the new season begins.

If the league application is not received by the association within the 42 (winter) or 30 (summer) day grace period, the bonding and insurance become effective when the application and dues are received by the association, and only for such funds as on deposit at that time, plus funds deposited thereafter. Failure to submit the league application within the stated time voids protection for all money collected prior to the date the league application was received.

In-Center Banking Service

The coverage afforded in the policies of insurance is extended to leagues utilizing in-center deposit services provided:

- ★ All USBC Rules regarding the handling of league funds are observed.
- ★ The center deposits the league funds within seven days of receipt in a special trust account in an accredited, insured banking institution and NOT combined with the center corporate accounts. (**Note:** The center may maintain a single account for all leagues; however a separate accounting must be maintained for each league.)
- ★ Two cosigners (league officers) from the league (league official and league supervisor for youth) are registered with the center in order for the league to withdraw its funds.
- ★ Requests for withdrawals must have the joint signatures of the two cosigners.
- ★ The center provides the league president (youth league supervisor) with a current statement of the account verifying the amount on deposit so the president can personally verify the league balance monthly as required by Rule 102c.



Associations

USBC affiliated associations, with the exception of those located on US Military Bases located in foreign countries, automatically are covered for \$10,000 and can obtain additional coverage without cost upon written request to USBC Headquarters or through the WinLABS program.

The policies of insurance provide coverage for misuse of funds by an association officer and bonds all officers and directors of the association for loss of funds due to burglary and/or holdup. Coverage is further extended to a non-board member appointed by the association manager as the tournament manager of a required championship tournament.

The following conditions govern the method by which associations must handle its funds to qualify for 100 percent protection of any loss caused by the dishonest act of an association officer:

- ★ Funds must be deposited within one week in an insured bank or credit institution in the name of the association.
- ★ Withdrawals require the signatures of two authorized officers who are at least 18 years old; signature stamps should not be used nor should checks be pre-signed.
- ★ The president must verify the account monthly.
- ★ The association account must be audited annually.

Failure to meet any of the conditions of the policies of insurance will result in a 50 percent reduction of any documented loss.

Burglary and Holdup Insurance

The funds of each USBC league and affiliated association are insured against loss by burglary and holdup as follows:

- ★ The taking of funds from an officer, or the centers messenger, by violence or threat of violence.
- ★ Funds taken through the forcible entry into the premises or locked receptacle, where the funds are kept, of an officer or the center's messenger. There must be visible evidence of forcible entry. An on-site police report is required.

NOTE: A messenger is considered the person from the center depositing league funds using an in-center banking service.

- ★ Receipts: Not to exceed one week's receipts at any one time, with a limit of \$2,000.
- ★ Disbursements: Not to exceed an amount of \$10,000 at any one time for a period of seven days. (Leagues with large prize funds should only pay out a maximum of \$10,000 in cash with the balance paid in checks.)

In the event the league or association fails to deposit the funds in a recognized banking or credit institution in the name of the organization as specified, the insurance company will be liable for only one week's receipts when a loss occurs due to burglary or holdup.



The policies of insurance DO NOT cover loss by fire, mysterious disappearance or funds left unattended.

Losses and Claims

Any loss should be reported to USBC Headquarters for guidance within 15 days.

Any attempt to regain funds through an agreement between the principal and offended parties without authorization from USBC Headquarters creates a legal situation which places the league's right of recovery under the bond in jeopardy.

Any officer who misuses the funds of a league, local or state association shall be subject to suspension from USBC membership. Likewise, the surety company will not extend coverage to any individual who misused funds in the past or has been convicted of a felony.

The president also may be liable for suspension from USBC membership for failing to make the monthly verification.



Chapter 9: Handicap Information

Handicap Procedures

Handicapping is a means of placing bowlers and teams with varying degrees of skill on as equitable a basis as possible for their competition against each other. USBC recommends that higher handicap percentages be used for more equalized matches.

Example, with handicap based on 80 percent of 200: (All fractions are dropped when figuring handicap.)

Team A		Team B	
Average Handicap		Average Handicap	
Jill	$160 + 32 = 192$	Scott	$124 + 60 = 184$
Barbara	$155 + 36 = 191$	Pam	$122 + 62 = 184$
Paul	$140 + 48 = 188$	Eric	$132 + 54 = 186$
Juanita	$146 + 43 = 189$	Jennifer	$141 + 47 = 188$
Adam	$167 + 26 = 193$	Mike	$160 + 32 = 192$
	$768 + 185 = 953$		$679 + 255 = 934$

With 80 percent handicap, Team A has a 19-pin advantage over Team B. By basing handicap on 80 percent of 200, it would be difficult for Team B to win the game. If the members of Team A were to bowl their average, it would be necessary for the members of Team B to exceed their own team average by at least 20 pins in order to win the game.

Example, with handicap based on 100 percent of 200:

Team A		Team B	
Average Handicap		Average Handicap	
Jill	$160 + 40 = 200$	Scott	$124 + 76 = 200$
Barbara	$155 + 45 = 200$	Pam	$122 + 78 = 200$
Paul	$140 + 60 = 200$	Eric	$132 + 68 = 200$
Juanita	$146 + 54 = 200$	Jennifer	$141 + 59 = 200$
Adam	$167 + 33 = 200$	Mike	$160 + 40 = 200$
	$768 + 232 = 1000$		$679 + 321 = 1000$

If the handicap is based on 100 percent of 200, the chances of Team B winning the game would be more realistic. The game becomes a most pins over average contest.

Since USBC rules state games with handicap included are to be eligible for league prizes, unless the league rules otherwise, problems can arise when handicap is based on the difference of the averages of the two



competing teams. USBC recommends handicap leagues use the individual or the team method of handicapping, so both teams in a match have the benefit of handicap.

See Rule 100g for the rules which govern handicap leagues.

Individual Method of Handicapping

Set a scratch figure higher than the entering average of any bowler in the league and decide on the percentage to be used for computing handicap. The individual handicaps of the bowlers are added together for the team handicap. In the following example, 100 percent of 200 is used.

<u>Actual Average</u>	<u>Handicap 100% of 200</u>	
Kathy 130	70	
Linda 140	60	(200 minus average
Ashley 125	75	X 100% equals
Keith 135	65	bowler's handicap.)
Ed 170	30	
	300	Handicap for Team

Team Method of Handicapping

Set a scratch figure higher than the entering average of any team in the league and decide on the percentage to be used in computing the handicap. The actual averages of the bowlers are added together in determining the team average. In the following example, 100 percent of 800 is used.

<u>Team C</u>	<u>Team D</u>
Kathy 130	Justin 137
Linda 140	Theresa 130
Ashley 125	Sara 131
Keith 135	Todd 120
Ed 170	Frank 167
700	685
Handicap 100	Handicap 115

Handicap for Team C: 800 scratch - 700 team average is 100 X 100 percent = 100 pins handicap for each game. Handicap for Team D: 800 scratch - 685 team average is 115 X 100 percent = 115. See Rule 100g for the rules which govern handicap leagues.



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abbsecretary@earthlink.net
americanblindbowlers.com

American Wheelchair Bowling Association (AWBA)

c/o Dave Roberts — Exec. Sec./Treas.
P.O. Box 69 ★ Clover, VA 24534-0069
(434) 454-2269 ★ FAX: (434) 454-6276
Bowlawba@aol.com ★ awba.org

Billiard & Bowling Institute of America (BBIA)

P.O. Box 6573 ★ Arlington, TX 76005
(800) 343-1329 ★ FAX: (817) 633-2940
answer@billiardandbowling.org
billiardandbowling.org

Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL)

Elizabeth Montanya
11350 Random Hills Road, Suite 800
Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 934-6039 ★ FAX: (703) 591-3049
epmontanya@bowlforveterans.org
bowlforveterans.org

Bowling Proprietors Association of America (BPAA)

615 Six Flags Drive ★ Arlington, TX 76011
(800) 343-1329 ★ FAX: (817) 633-2940
bpaa.com

Bowling Writers Association of America (BWAA)

8501 N. Manor Lane ★ Fox Point, WI 53217
(414) 351-6085 ★ FAX: (414) 351-6085
sjames2652@wi.rr.com ★ bowlingwriters.com

Canadian Tenpin Federation, Inc.

916-3 Avenue N
Lethbridge Alberta, Canada T1H 0H3
(403) 381-2830 ★ FAX: (403) 381-6247
stanmay@gotenpinbowling.ca
gotenpinbowling.ca

Federation Internationale des Quilleurs (FIQ)

Green Valley Country Club ★ Valle Verde I
E. Rodriguez Avenue
Pasig City, Manila Philippines
(632) 671-2436 ★ FAX: (632) 671-7031
fiqwebby@fiq.org ★ fiq.org

N.A.I.R.: International Association of Bowling Lane Specialists

5806 W. 127th St. ★ Alsip, IL 60803
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International Bowling Museum & Hall of Fame

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(800) 966-2695 or (314) 231-6340
FAX: (314) 231-4054
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Multi-Unit Bowling Information Group (MUBIG)

8463 Castlewood Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46250
(317) 576-5174, ext. 207
FAX: (317) 576-5173 ★ jdoty@royalpin.com
bpaa.com (select MUBIG icon)

National Deaf Bowling Association (NDBA)

111 Snow Lane ★ McGehee, AR 71654-9356
TDD: (870) 222-5640 ★ FAX: (870) 222-5641
Rvasel@earthlink.net

National Duckpin Bowling Congress

4991 Fairview Ave. ★ Linthicum, MD 21090
(410) 636-2695 ★ FAX: (410) 636-3256
nationalduckpin@aol.com ★ ndbc.org

National Women's 500 Club, Inc.

731 Conch Shell Manor ★ Plantation, FL 33324
(954) 473-1417 ★ (954) 747-3777
natl500sec@aol.com
nationalwomens500club.org

National 600 Bowling Club

819 North Street ★ Jackson, NJ 08527
(732) 833-6811 ★ pamsfishin@aol.com
national600.com

National 700 Bowling Club

1144 East Columbia
Davenport, IA 52803-1939 ★ (563) 324-7304

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FAX: (206) 332-9722 ★ pba.com

The National Bowling Association, Inc. (TNBA)

9944 Reading Road
Evanale, OH 45241-3106
(513) 769-1985 ★ FAX: (513) 769-3596
Annette.samual@tnbainc.org ★ tnba-inc.org

United States Bowling Congress

5301 S. 76th Street ★ Greendale, WI 53129
(800) 514-2695 ★ FAX: (414) 421-8560
bowl.info@bowl.com ★ bowl.com

United States Deaf Bowling Federation

Connie Marchione, President
8071 Cherrystone Ave.
Panorama City, CA 91402-5414
TTT/TDD (818) 785-1478
FAX: (818) 785-1478 ★ kchodak@aol.com

World Bowling Writers (WBW)

122 S. Michigan Ave. #1506
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 341-1110 ★ FAX: (312) 341-1469
bobj@bowlersjournal.com
bowlersjournal.com

