



USBC

PLAYING

RULES

& COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS



This version features more Commonly Asked Questions than the previous printed version.

Book Update

Changes for the following Chapters are highlighted in red. All changes are effective August 1, 2011 unless otherwise noted.

Chapter 1- Introduction

Chapter 3 - Awards

Chapter 1: Introduction

USBC Mission

To provide benefits, resources and programs that enhance the bowling experience.

Membership

How Obtained

Membership in USBC is composed of adults and youth who have paid the appropriate USBC, and if applicable, state and local association dues/**processing fee (youth)**. 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 or Rule 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, he/she 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 dues not to exceed:

Adult Dues		Youth Standard Dues	
USBC	\$10.00	USBC	\$ 14.50
Maximum State	\$ 1.00	State	\$.50
Maximum Local	\$10.00	Local Processing	\$ 2.00
Total Maximum	\$21.00	Total	\$ 17.00

State and local dues (adult only) 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 or processing fees (youth), 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 Date

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

- a. For the season starting August 1 through July 31.
- b. Through October 1 of the following season for summer leagues and tournaments. Youth who turn 20 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 20 years old. If a youth member bowling in a summer league turns 20 during the season and the league continues beyond July 31, the bowler may complete the league as a youth bowler. **For individuals authorized as mentally challenged, the age requirement is waived.**
- c. Through the balance of the current season and the following season when purchased after March 15 either through a summer league or associate membership.

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/**league processor (youth)** within 30 days. Otherwise, membership benefits are not effective until the date received at the local association office/**league processor (youth)**.

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

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 – \$17
- 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.

Sport Bowling

All bowlers participating in USBC Sport Bowling leagues must pay or provide proof of payment of the Sport Bowling membership dues (\$15 for adults; \$10 for youth) 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 he/she already has purchased USBC standard membership for the current season. Only USBC Sport Bowling members are eligible for USBC Sport Bowling awards.

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

Youth Basic Membership

The USBC Youth Basic membership will cost \$5 (\$4 national, \$1 processing fee) and be available to all youth who bowl in a league that meets for 12 or fewer sessions. Benefits include:

- a. USBC Youth membership card;
- b. USBC recognized average **of 12 or more games**;
- c. The ability to participate in USBC certified tournaments for that season ending July 31;
- d. Access to the USBC Youth Purchasable Awards program;
- e. **USBC High Score Awards**;
- f. **League Championship Award emblems**;
- g. **One issue of *US Youth Bowler* magazine.**

USBC Roll 'N Grow

The USBC Roll 'N Grow membership will cost \$8 (\$7 national, \$1 processing fee) and be available to all youth who bowl in bumper leagues or leagues consisting of youth ages 7 or younger. A member that bowls in an additional USBC Roll 'N Grow league in another center shall pay a \$1 processing fee. Benefits include:

- a. USBC Youth membership card;
- b. USBC recognized average of 12 or more games. Bumper averages are only recognized for other bumper competition. Bumper averages will be compiled and listed with bumper designation.
- c. The ability to participate in USBC certified tournaments for that season ending July 31;
- d. Access to the USBC Youth Purchasable Awards program;
- e. USBC Youth awards program;
- f. Bowlopolis DVD;
- g. One issue of Bowlopolis the MAG;
- h. Enrollment in the Bowlopolis Kids Club;
- i. Peewee Progress Report Card.

Junior Gold

Membership consists of youth bowlers who must:

- a. **Be a USBC Youth standard member in good standing and maintain compliance with Rule 400.**
- b. Purchase an additional Junior Gold membership of \$30 separate from regular USBC Youth standard membership.
 1. Junior Gold members will receive a youth Sport membership.
 2. Junior Gold membership is valid:
 - a) For the season starting August 1 through July 31.
 - b) Through October 1 of the following season for summer leagues.
 3. Junior Gold membership must be purchased prior to entry into a qualifying event for the USBC Junior Gold Championships.

High School

Individual: USBC High School membership will cost \$5 (\$4 national, \$1 processing fee) and be available to all youth who bowl in recognized interscholastic competitions between two or more schools. Benefits include:

- a. USBC Youth membership card.
- b. USBC recognized average consisting of all complete games bowled by the member (minimum of 12 games) in eligible competitions.
- c. The ability to participate in USBC certified tournaments for that season ending July 31.
- d. USBC High Score Awards.
- e. Members are eligible for scholarships and awards available through the USBC Coaches Registration Program.

The membership is valid for recognized high school competitions. Should a member wish to participate in other USBC Youth league competition, he/she must obtain USBC membership and pay the necessary fees. USBC Standard members may participate in this program without payment of additional fees **and completing a USBC High School membership application.**

The USBC High School Coaches Registration Program: (formerly the High School Team Membership Program) is open to all Interscholastic Coaches free of charge. Coaches can register their high school bowlers and receive benefits from USBC.

The Coaches Registration Program 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 High School) the individual must obtain USBC membership by paying all required membership dues.

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

Collegiate

USBC Collegiate membership is available to student-athletes participating on an intercollegiate team. Each intercollegiate team must complete an application for membership and submit the required dues for each student athlete. Each student-athlete must complete a USBC membership application.

By purchasing a membership through USBC Collegiate, collegiate members receive USBC National Membership and a Sport Membership upgrade only. USBC Collegiate membership entitles student-athletes to participate in certified USBC Collegiate competition. To participate in USBC standard or Sport competition, the applicable state/local membership dues must be paid.

USBC Lifetime

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 a membership application each season. 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

USBC Youth membership is available to individuals who have not reached their 20th birthday prior to August 1 of the current bowling season and have maintained compliance with Item a below. Individuals who purchase Youth membership in a summer league and turn 20 prior to August 1 will be allowed to complete the summer league. The age limitation is waived for those authorized as mentally challenged.

- 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 the USBC Singles Competition Prize Waiver 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 400

400/1	<p>My 18-year-old daughter is still a USBC Youth member, but wishes to join our Adult/Youth league with her younger brother. May she join the league as the adult, or would it affect her eligibility as a USBC Youth member?</p> <p>The league rules and/or board determine if she can join as the adult. Since the league must follow USBC Rule 400, it would have no effect on her USBC Youth membership.</p>
400/2	<p>What awards can now be given in USBC Youth competition?</p> <p>In addition to scholarships and USBC Awards, bowling equipment, apparel, gift certificates and other merchandise prizes are allowed. The total value of prizes a youth could receive in any one event cannot exceed \$500. Scholarships do not fall under this limitation. (Gift certificates or gift cards cannot be redeemable for cash.)</p>
400/3	<p>Can a youth bowl for cash or bonds?</p> <p>No. Bowling for cash or bonds is a violation of Rule 400.</p>
400/4	<p>Can a youth bowl in an adult doubles or team event where cash or bonds are offered if the USBC Prize Waiver is signed or the competition agrees to offer scholarships through</p>

	<p>SMART?</p> <p>No. Rule 400 only allows youths to participate in adult singles competitions with cash or bond prizes and/or merchandise prizes valued in excess of \$500 provided they submit the USBC Singles Competition Prize Waiver form prior to participating in such a competition.</p>
400/5	<p>Can bowling centers award items such as free soft drinks, food and free games for bowling accomplishments?</p> <p>Yes. However, the total value of the awards an individual can earn in any one event, with the exception of scholarships, cannot exceed \$500.</p>
400/6	<p>Can a parent or legal guardian purchase a ring to commemorate a youth's 298, 299 or 300 game or 700, 800 or 900 series?</p> <p>Yes. USBC policy only allows USBC Youth members their parents or legal guardians to purchase an upgraded commemorative high score ring. Bowling centers, USBC associations or other parties cannot purchase the rings as awards for their USBC Youth bowlers. This policy is a proactive approach to prevent offering awards that could jeopardize a USBC Youth member's amateur status and eligibility to compete in high school sports.</p>
400/7	<p>What is the maximum amount a youth bowler can earn in scholarships?</p> <p>There is no limitation on the value of scholarships that can be awarded in youth competition.</p>
400/8	<p>What is the purpose of the USBC Singles Competition Prize Waiver?</p> <p>The waiver serves three primary purposes. First, it ensures that the USBC Youth member is aware that the event is offering prizes which may be in violation of Rule 400. Second, it provides the USBC Youth member the opportunity to compete in singles competitions without jeopardizing his/her USBC Youth eligibility. And last, it replaces the Parental Consent Form in adult singles competitions.</p>
400/9	<p>Where can we find a copy of the USBC Singles Competition Prize Waiver?</p> <p>The official USBC Singles Competition Prize Waiver can be found on our web site, BOWL.com or by contacting the Rules Team at (800) 514-2695, ext. 3155.</p>
400/10	<p>Can a league or tournament make up its own prize waiver?</p> <p>No, only the official USBC Singles Competition Prize Waiver form can be used.</p>
400/11	<p>What competitions can a USBC Youth member compete in by signing the USBC Prize Waiver?</p> <p>The USBC Singles Competition Prize Waiver is acceptable only for use in adult singles competitions which offer cash or bonds and/or any merchandise prizes valued greater than \$500. The USBC Singles Competition Prize Waiver is NOT ACCEPTABLE for use in team (2 or more players) competition including, for example, Adult/Youth team competitions.</p>
400/12	<p>Must the bowler complete this waiver before they start the competition or can the bowler wait until the prize list is finalized before signing the waiver?</p> <p>Prior to competing the member must complete and sign the prize waiver designating their intent to decline any cash prizes they may qualify for.</p>
400/13	<p>When a bowler signs the USBC Singles Competition Prize Waiver and earns a prize they have waived claim to, what happens to these prizes?</p> <p>Any waived prizes shall be returned to the prize fund for redistribution to the other eligible participants.</p>
400/14	<p>If I have questions or concerns regarding amateur status/rules in my state, how can I contact my state high school athletic association?</p>

	Locate the contact for your specific state on High School Bowling page of BOWL.com.
400/15	<p>Some of the teams in my daughter's league have sponsors who give them bowling shirts and help with other expenses. Is this acceptable?</p> <p>Yes, however, USBC prefers the entire league be sponsored so each team is treated the same. Sponsors can cover normal expenses, such as providing team shirts, travel expenses to tournaments, etc.</p>

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 Executive Director 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 Youth 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.

Local 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 considered 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 (10) 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.

A frame by frame account on how the above game is scored and calculated can be found on BOWL.com.

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

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

Rule 3 – Modified Formats

Competition in which a modified game of American tenpins is played or bumpers are used may be certified by USBC. With the exception of bumpers, all USBC equipment specifications shall apply to such competition and all USBC 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 and meeting USBC equipment specifications qualify for USBC awards. Members are not eligible for any USBC awards based on average.
3. Bumper Bowling.

Youth: USBC Standard Youth members bowling in USBC bumper bowling competition are eligible for all Youth Standard membership benefits. See Youth Rock 'N Grow membership benefits in Chapter 1.

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.

NOTE: For types and descriptions of modified formats including Baker System, see the [USBC League Operations Handbook](#) or [BOWL.com](#).

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 Rule 4b and Rule 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. Unless the individual is unable to impart force or impetus to a ball, 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.

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. Bowler's weekly game-by-game bowling record and current standing sheet from each USBC 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 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 4e.

4e/1	<p>Last year a bowler averaged 190 right-handed. Due to an injury, he is bowling left-handed this season and averaging 127. The bowler would like to participate in the city and state tournaments bowling left-handed. However, the tournament rules require participants to use their highest previous season average and the bowler does not want to bowl left handed using his 190 right-handed average. Can the bowler apply for tournament average relief? If so, how?</p> <p>Through the provisions of Rule 4e, a player now has the ability to request relief from an established average under injury or disability circumstances. All applications for tournament average relief must be submitted to USBC Headquarters first for consideration prior to participation. See USBC Rule 4e for details.</p> <p>If authorization is granted by USBC Headquarters, the player will be notified in writing of the minimum average a tournament may assign and the time limit for the relief. The bowler then must request tournament management’s permission to use the assigned average. However, tournament management still has the authority to deny the relief and require the bowler to use the average as stated in tournament rules or assign the bowler an average that meets or exceeds the minimum established by USBC.</p>
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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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 5a.

5a/1	<p>What happens when there is a dispute over a foul call?</p> <p>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</p>
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	<p>foul, cannot be resolved by the two team captains.</p> <p>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 board of directors for a decision.</p>
5a/2	<p>A player goes over the foul line while retaining possession of the ball. Is this considered a foul?</p> <p>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.</p>
5a/3	<p>A member of a team crosses onto an adjacent approach when making a delivery. Is this considered a foul?</p> <p>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.</p>
5a/4	<p>Is a foul called when the ball rolls over the foul line during delivery and the foul detector is activated?</p> <p>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.</p>

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 5c.

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.
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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. (See [Rule 9](#).)

- 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 8.

8/1	<p>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.</p>
8/2	<p>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.</p>
8/3	<p>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.</p>

Rule 9 – Bowling on the 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 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 12.

12/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
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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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 13.

13/1	<p>We have had a youth bowling in our Adult league all season and just realized the Parental Consent Form has not been filed with the league. What should be done with the games the youth bowled?</p> <p>The youth would be considered an ineligible player and games are subject to forfeit in accordance with Rule 119. However, action can only be taken within the time frame of Rule 119. If the youth wishes to continue in the league, the youth must complete a Parental Consent Form.</p>
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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.

Penalty: 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

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 [Rule 115c](#)), and subject to suspension from or denial of USBC membership.

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.

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 collected or held in trust for USBC, a league or tournament or a chartered local or state association.
5. Misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance of office.

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 [Rule 115c](#).

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.

17c. Improper Conduct by an 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 17e.

17e/1	<p>My son quit bowling in a youth league a year ago and is currently bowling in an adult league. Now he would like to bowl with the school in a USBC Youth league. How can he get USBC Youth membership?</p> <p>He can apply by sending a letter requesting membership to USBC, Attn: Rules. USBC will contact the local association for additional information. After review of the information, USBC decides whether or not to grant membership. The individual is not allowed to compete in USBC Youth leagues or tournaments until membership is granted.</p>
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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.

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.

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 [Specs Manual](#) on [BOWL.com](#).)

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 18.

18/1	<p>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 BOWL.com.</p>
18/2	<p>When may I alter the surface of my bowling ball?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cleaning – Cleaners approved for use anytime may be utilized before, during or after certified competition cleaners approved for only before and after competition may only be used during these times. b. Sanding – You are permitted to sand the surface of your bowling balls prior to certified competition, however, the use of abrasives is strictly prohibited once the first ball is thrown in the competition. c. Polishing – You are permitted to polish the surface of your bowling ball prior to certified competition. However, once tournament or league play begins, the use of a ball spinner is strictly prohibited; only an automated, self-contained polishing machine may be used.
18/3	<p>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.</p>
18/4	<p>Can a bowler use an abrasive on just the track or just a portion of the track of the ball? No. USBC specifications require that the entire surface of the ball be sanded in a uniform manner. Sanding a ball in any other manner would be a violation of Rule 17a, Item 1. The penalty for a violation of this rule can include disqualification, forfeiture, removal from the league, and/or suspension of USBC membership.</p>

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 [Rule 100a](#) and [Rule 300b](#).) USBC High Score Awards designated with an (*) cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed. Scores are determined on a scratch basis.

NOTE: A frame by frame print out of the scoresheet must be provided with all Award Applications submitted from a modified format.

Rule 51a. Single Game Awards

1. Youth Awards.

USBC Youth Standard members participating in USBC Standard youth competition will be recognized for the following single game accomplishments:

- a. 300*
- b. Eleven (11) strikes in a row when the score is 299 or less *
- c. 125 to 299 games in 25 pin increments.
- d. Special awards available to youth ages 12 and below. 50 to 124 games in 25 pin increments.

The bowler's average must be less than the game bowled. Awards are limited to once per season per achievement. Once an award has been earned in any classification, bowlers are only eligible for the higher awards on a progressive merit basis.

All USBC Youth members are eligible for USBC High Score Awards in USBC competition.

2. Adult Awards.

A member is eligible for one award in each of the following single game categories during a fiscal year (August 1-July 31):

- a. 300*
 - b. 275 to 299 all averages are eligible
 - c. 250 to 274 with a 215 average or below
 - d. 225 to 249 with a 190 average or below
 - e. 200 to 224 with a 165 average or below
 - f. 175 to 199 with a 140 average or below
 - g. 150 to 174 with a 120 average or below
 - h. 125 to 149 with a 100 average or below
 - i. Eleven (11) strikes in a row when the score is 299 or less*
 - j. 75 Pins Over Average in a single game
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.

**Cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.*

Rule 51b. Series Awards

1. Youth Awards

USBC Youth Standard members participating in USBC Standard youth competition will be recognized for the following accomplishments:

- a. 900*
- b. 800*
- c. 300 to 799 series in 50 pin increments.
- d. Special awards available to youth ages 12 and below. 100 to 349 series in 50 pin increments.

The bowler's series average must be less than the series bowled. Awards are limited to once per season per achievement. Once an award has been earned in any classification, bowlers are only eligible for the higher awards on a progressive merit basis. A two game series format is eligible.

All USBC Youth members are eligible for USBC High Score Awards in USBC competition.

2. Adult Awards.

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 all averages eligible
- d. 600 to 699 with a 175 average or below
- e. 500 to 599 with a 145 average or below
- f. 400 to 499 with a 120 average or below
- g. 300 to 399 with a 90 average or below
- h. 140 Pins Over Average in a three-game series

3. Qualifications.

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

- a. A series shall be figured as follows:
 - 1) If more than three but less than six games are bowled, use the first three games.
 - 2) If six or more games are bowled, use each succeeding set of three games following the first three games.
- b. In tournament play, each three game series must be bowled in the same block.
- c. A series of games can be bowled consecutively against one or more opponents.
- d. Games must be bowled on the same date.
- e. 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.

**Cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.*

Rule 51c. National Team High Game and Series*

During each fiscal year USBC will issue an award to each member of the team who bowls the nation's highest scratch score in each of the following classifications. **Submit only scores that exceed those listed below.**

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

Mixed Teams	Game	Series
5-player	1250	3600
4-player	1000	2800
3-player	750	2200
2-player	500	1500

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

Youth Teams:

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

Age	2-Player		3-Player		4-Player		5-Player	
	Game	Series	Game	Series	Game	Series	Game	Series
8 and Under	150	450	225	675	300	900	375	1125
9-12	250	750	375	1125	500	1500	625	1875
13-16	350	1050	525	1575	700	1900	875	2625
17-20	450	1350	675	2025	900	2300	1125	3375

NOTE: USBC Headquarters must receive applications for team score awards by September 1 to receive recognition.

*Cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.

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.

*Cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.

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 secretary or tournament manager shall notify the local association/**league processor** within 48 hours and submit a completed high score award application within 20 days.
 - b. The association manager/**league processor** shall submit a completed high score application to USBC Headquarters within seven (7) days after receipt of application.
 - c. **900 series, 300 Baker team game and National Team High Game and Series applications are submitted to USBC Headquarters.**
 - d. **300 game and 800 series award applications are submitted to the local association, local processor or USBC Headquarters.**
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.

Rule 52a. 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. 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.
6. No claim will be considered if submitted more than 30 days after the close of the bowling season in which the score was bowled.

**Cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.*

Rule 52b. 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 October 1 of the next fiscal year.

Rule 52c. 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. To be eligible for recognition, all qualifying scores must be received by USBC Headquarters on or before October 1 of the next fiscal year.

**Cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.*

Rule 53. Average Based Awards - Qualifying Rules

Qualifications for averaged based awards apply in the following order:

- 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 **of 21 games or more (12 games or more for youth)** from the same league.
 3. For a new bowler in the league with less than 12 games, use last season's highest USBC average **of 21 games or more (12 games or more for youth)** 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 (12 games or more for youth)** 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 (12 games or more for youth)** 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 **of 21 games or more (12 games or more for youth)**.
 - 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 (12 games or more for youth) 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 (12 games or more for youth) 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.

NOTE: When the full pin increase is the same extend the decimal until the tie is broken. The bowler with the highest fractional increase is the winner.as shown below.

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

Rule 54b. Youth League High Series

Each league will be issued awards annually based on the type of league to provide recognition for the 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 [Rule 117a](#) and [Rule 122.](#)) ([Suggested adult league rules](#) can be found on [BOWL.com.](#))
 - 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 100a.

100a/1	<p>Is the bowling center required to provide an open lane(s) on either side of a league during league play?</p> <p>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.</p>
100a/2	<p>Can a 16-year-old bowl in a USBC adult league?</p> <p>Yes, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements set by the league. In addition, if they are an unmarried high school student and the league offers prizes that violate Rule 400, a parent or guardian is required to sign a Parental Consent Form as specified in Rule 13. This form cautions parents/guardians of the possible consequences if the youth bowls in a USBC league or tournament. If it is singles competition offering such prizes, the league would have to agree to award the youth's prize in the form of a scholarship or the youth must sign a</p>

	<p>form waiving his/her rights to any prize in violation of Rule 400. A copy of the Parental Consent Form and Prize Waiver is available on the Rules section of BOWL.com.</p> <p>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.</p>
100a/3	<p>Can a league limit participation to men only or women only? USBC holds that leagues are invitational by nature. Therefore, leagues determine their own eligibility requirements. There are leagues that are male only, female only, exclusive to postal workers, firefighters, police, union, church, etc. Any league intending to limit participation to specific individuals, the league should specify this requirement in the rules and in the title.</p>
100a/4	<p>How is the length of the league schedule determined? The length of the schedule and other commercial aspects of the game (such as price of bowling, time, number of teams, etc.) are matters to be negotiated by the league and the proprietor. Because a proprietor has specific rights as an independent business person, USBC has no jurisdiction over these commercial aspects, but does have a vital concern on how leagues are conducted. USBC rules enable a league to decide on the length of the league schedule based on any agreement with the proprietor. It is important to come to an agreement on these matters before the season begins.</p> <p>When there is no written contract between the league and the proprietor, verbal commitments are just as binding. We urge all USBC leagues to honor their contracts, whether verbal or written. If questions arise about commercial matters, the president, secretary or committee appointed by the president should meet with the proprietor to discuss the matter.</p>
100a/5	<p>May a league adopt a rule prohibiting league members from coming early to practice on the lanes they are scheduled to bowl on in league play? USBC does not have a rule prohibiting practice games before league play. Because the league has no jurisdiction until play has commenced, this type of rule may be an infringement on the proprietor's rights as an independent business person. Therefore, if the league wanted to adopt a rule, the proprietor would have to be consulted first and agree to this type of restriction.</p>

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. ([Suggested youth league rules](#) can be found on [BOWL.com](#).)

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 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 USBC member ID number 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 or bonds are offered or merchandise prizes exceeding \$500 in value. Awards to youth bowlers must conform to awards permitted under the USBC Youth 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 100d.

100d/1	<p>May the adults in the league smoke or drink alcohol?</p> <p>Although USBC prefers that other adults participating in the league refrain from smoking or drinking only the officers 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.</p>
100d/2	<p>In an adult/youth league, must there be the same amount of youths and adults on each team?</p> <p>No. An adult-youth league is one in which both adults and youths compete. There is no specific requirement that each team include both adults and youths on the roster. However, the league rules should specify any adult/youth roster requirements.</p>

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 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, for 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. (Download a handicap chart on BOWL.com.)

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 100g.

100g/1	<p>What is a good handicap percentage for a league with members who have a wide range of averages?</p> <p>According to Rule 100g, Item 1, the percentage shall be 100 percent unless otherwise provided by league rules. USBC recommends using 100 percent handicap because previous studies have shown that higher handicap percentages help to equalize competition.</p>
100g/2	<p>What is the most effective system of handicapping?</p> <p>The individual method is most effective. A scratch figure should be set higher than any bowler's average in the league and all bowlers are handicapped from that figure.</p> <p>For example, if the highest individual average is 222, the base figure for handicapping could be set at 230 allowing for average improvement, and 100 percent of 230 could be adopted by the league. The players' individual handicaps are added together for the team handicap. With this method, each bowler as well as each team has the benefit of handicap. When the league awards individuals for high handicap game and high handicap series, it is simple for the secretary to determine which league member is in contention because individual handicap is already included.</p>

100g/3	<p>What handicapping system does USBC not recommend using?</p> <p>Some leagues handicap the difference between the opposing teams' averages. This method is not recommended because not all teams receive handicap each session and it poses problems if the league wishes to provide its members with individual awards. In leagues using this type of handicap method, the league secretary must make many additional calculations to determine individual handicaps for award purposes.</p>
100g/4	<p>Some of the higher-average teams want us to adopt a rule to limit handicap. Can we set a limit of a 60-pin handicap for any one bowler?</p> <p>According to Rule 100g, Item 4, to limit handicap a league must adopt its own rule. However, USBC advises against leagues adopting rules to limit handicap. Although higher average teams believe they cannot be competitive each week while giving the full handicap allowance, they should keep in mind, unless the league is using at least 100 percent handicap, the higher average team still has the advantage.</p> <p>For example, at 85 percent handicap, the higher average team has a 15 percent advantage. With unlimited handicap, the higher average teams may be challenged, but our experience indicates more competitive bowling is stimulating to all teams in the league.</p>
100g/5	<p>Must all players in a league be handicapped equally?</p> <p>No, the league may adopt a separate handicap for males and females or, in an adult-youth league, may choose to adopt a separate handicap for the adults and youths. When a league chooses to adopt separate handicaps, its rules must specify how the handicap will be applied to all participants.</p>

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 membership fees in keeping with the provisions of [Rule 101](#).

100j. Managed

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 [Rule 102e](#) and [Rule 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 [Rule 102c](#), Item 6 and [Rule 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. Rule [102a](#), Items 3 and 4; [Rule 103b](#), Item 1; [Rule 117a](#) and [Rule 121](#) do not apply to managed leagues.

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 100k.

100k/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
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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.

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 101.

101/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
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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 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 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 and 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 102a.

102a/1	<p>I was at our league's organizational meeting and the league elected the treasurer's husband as their president. Is this legal?</p> <p>No, two immediate family members cannot hold the offices of President or Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer or Treasurer in the same league. Therefore, one of these officers must resign and the league board (officers and team captains) proceeds in voting in a new officer.</p>
102a/2	<p>How should a league handle complaints regarding problems occurring within the bowling center?</p> <p>When the league has concerns regarding lanes, equipment, loud music, etc., the league</p>

	officers, or a committee appointed by the league president, may discuss the problem with center management in an effort to resolve the matter.
102a/3	<p>Who is considered immediate family? What if they are no longer in the same household? Members of an immediate family include mothers, daughters, sisters, wives, husbands, sons, brothers, fathers, stepsisters, stepbrothers, stepmothers, stepfathers and in-laws.</p> <p>Two members of an immediate family cannot serve as president or vice-president and secretary-treasurer or treasurer of the same league or co-sign for withdrawals from a league account, even if they do not reside in the same household.</p>

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 bank statements being sent to the president and 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. (For more information on committees, see the [League Operations Handbook](#).)
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. (A monthly [president verification worksheet](#) can be found on [BOWL.com](#))

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.

(For more information on managing league funds, see the [League Operations Handbook](#).)

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 102c.

102c/1	<p>Our league president and treasurer are best friends. Due to their relationship, is the president still required to verify the league’s bank balance on a monthly basis?</p> <p>Yes, the friendship or relationship does not excuse the president from his/her responsibility of personally verifying the league account each month. Failure to verify this information monthly could affect the league’s bonding coverage.</p>
102c/2	<p>As president, I receive a copy of our league account bank statement each month and verify the league’s bank balance. Do I have to do anything else?</p> <p>Yes, you must also look at the treasurer's records to determine if all funds paid are accounted for. For example, some individuals may be behind in fees, while others may have paid for the entire season. The amount on deposit must be the amount received by the league. Also, you need to appoint an auditing committee. The auditing committee should check the treasurer’s records at specified times during the season to verify that incomes, expenditures, balances and records have been accurately kept.</p>
102c/3	<p>Who has the right to request an audit?</p> <p>Any member of the league has the right to request an audit. The request should be done in writing to the league president along with information to support or justify the audit.</p>

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. (For more information on completing standing sheets, see the [League Operations Handbook](#).)
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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 102e.

102e/1	<p>Who has the right to see the league records? Although the secretary and treasurer are responsible for maintaining an accurate and complete account of scores and finances, the records are league property. Therefore, all league members have the right to see the records. However, so as not to disrupt bowling, arrangements should be made to view the records either before or after bowling, or at some other time agreeable to the officer(s).</p>
102e/2	<p>Our bowling league utilizes the center’s secretarial service. Do we still need to elect a league secretary? Yes, Rule 102a requires each league to elect a secretary. Since the league utilizes the center’s secretarial service, the league secretary should work together with the bowling center and is responsible for ensuring that all duties listed under Rule 102e are being properly fulfilled.</p>
102e/3	<p>Can a proprietor require our league to use and pay for the secretarial services provided by the center? Yes. This and other proprietor provided services are issues negotiated between the league and the center. Although a proprietor can provide the service, it is up to the board of directors to determine if the league will utilize it. However, whether the league uses the service or not, the proprietor may still require payment. In cases where the league utilizes a secretarial service provided by the bowling center, the league is still required to appoint a secretary and treasurer. These officials are required to ensure that all duties as specified in Rule 102e and Rule 102f are fulfilled.</p>
102e/4	<p>How long must league records be maintained? USBC does not have any rule regarding how long the secretary’s records (i.e., minutes, prize lists, copies of recaps and standings sheets, league rules, etc.) should be kept. This is an issue to be determined by each league. Recap sheets can be destroyed after the season has been completed and all records have been finalized. However, Rule 102e, Item 8, requires this information to be turned over to the newly elected officer when there is a change in league officers.</p>

	As to the treasurer's records, Rule 102f, Item 7, requires all financial records, whether in the possession of the former officer or newly elected officer, be retained for at least one year following the completion of the schedule.
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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. Ensure the statement is sent to the league president.
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 one year from the completion of the season.

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.

(For more information on managing league funds, see the [League Operations Handbook](#))

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 Official (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 prebowls and postponements, unless the authority is given to an appointed committee or the league official.
3. Cosign for withdrawal of funds from the league account(s).

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

(For more information on managing league funds, see the [League Operations Handbook](#).)

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 102h.

102h/1	Must a youth league supervisor be a USBC member? Yes, the league supervisor is considered a league officer and therefore must be a USBC member per Rule 102a.
102h/2	Who is considered immediate family? What if they are no longer in the same household? Members of an immediate family include mothers, daughters, sisters, wives, husbands, sons, brothers, fathers, stepsisters, stepbrothers, stepmothers, stepfathers and in-laws. Two members of an immediate family cannot serve as league supervisor and league official of the same league or co-sign for withdrawals from a league account, even if they do not reside in the same household.

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 account(s).

(For more information on managing league funds, see the [League Operations Handbook](#).)

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 102i.

102i/1	Since our youth league has such low award fees we can't open a bank account as required. What can we do about this situation? When a league's funds are too small to meet banking requirements, we suggest they request the center to set up in-house banking. If this is done, the funds must be deposited in a separate account, and the center must provide monthly accounting to the league.
102i/2	Must a youth league official be a USBC member? Yes, the league official is considered a league officer and therefore must be a USBC member per Rule 102a.

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 directors 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 103a.

103a/1	<p>If the team captain is also an officer, can they vote as a captain and as an officer?</p> <p>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.</p>
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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 board is final unless an appeal is made under the provisions of [Rule 119](#). (Guidelines on [how to handle a protest](#) can be found on [BOWL.com](#).)

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 103b.

103b/1	<p>When games bowled are protested, what decisions may the board make?</p> <p>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):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
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103b/2	<p>The board decides to null and void the games of two teams involved in a protest. What happens to the original games bowled?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
103b/3	<p>What if fees are never paid and the prize fund is short? What course of action can the league follow?</p> <p>This would be a matter for referral to the board under Rule 103b. Generally, when a shortage occurs because a team member did not pay fees, the shortage is deducted from the individual's share of the team prize money at the end of the season. If the shorted amount is excessive and not covered by the individual's prize money, the loss could be prorated and a small amount would be taken from the prize money of each team in the league or the loss could be taken from the team's prize money. In either case, the league has the option to file charges against the member under Rule 115b.</p>
103b/4	<p>At the organizational meeting there was discussion and a vote taken regarding an adoption of a rule, but the rule did not appear in the printed rules. What can be done to correct this?</p> <p>It is not unusual for a league to adopt a rule and then have the rule inadvertently omitted when the rules are prepared for distribution. Under these circumstances, it is permissible for the board to meet to review the organizational meeting minutes in accordance with Rule 103b. The board members can also be asked to ratify what happened at the organizational meeting.</p> <p>If a majority of the board determines the rule was actually discussed and voted on at the organizational meeting, and it was inadvertently omitted when the rules were typed, the rule is binding and added to the existing rules. In this situation, the league is not adding, deleting or changing the existing rules, only clarifying what is adopted, so written consent from every team captain is not needed.</p>

Rule 104 – Teams

104a. Team 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 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 104a.

104a/1	<p>May a captain change the lineup from game to game?</p> <p>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.</p>
104a/2	<p>Can a captain remove a member of the team during the season?</p> <p>Rule 104a, Item 3 states, it is within the captain's authority to remove any bowler permanently from a team. However, the captain must furnish good and sufficient reason upon appeal to the league board.</p> <p>If bowlers are removed, and are not dismissed under Rule 115a, they are eligible to receive a prorated share of the team prize money at the end of the season, based on the number of games bowled and the amount of prize money won by the team. In addition, the bowlers receive any special prizes for which they have qualified.</p>
104a/3	<p>If a team member resigns or is replaced during the season, are they entitled to share the team's prize money?</p> <p>Regardless of how long bowlers compete with a team, they qualify for a prorated share of the team's prize money provided they resigned in accordance with Rule 114a or were replaced by the team captain.</p> <p>Rule 104a, Item 7, requires the team captain to pay each member of the team within 15 days after receiving prize money in accordance with any verbal or written agreements. USBC holds that prize distribution among team members is a team matter. When a member has bowled part of the season and is unable to be a member at the end of the schedule, it is common practice for teams to prorate prize money between the member who resigned and the replacement based on the number of games each bowled and paid for during the season.</p>

104a/4	<p>Can an error on a score sheet or recap sheet be corrected after the team captains have signed the recap sheet?</p> <p>Yes. Although Rule 104a, Item 5, and Rule 116a, Item 5, require the captains to sign the scorebook and verify the scores bowled, their signatures do not prevent a score from being corrected. An officer is required by Rule 116a, Item 6, to correct errors if they are found after the captains have signed the recap sheets. Both captains should be notified of the corrections. However, if a score sheet is removed from the center and an error is found, the matter needs to be referred to the board for a decision.</p>
104a/5	<p>Is a substitute (designated or roving) listed on a team roster?</p> <p>No, only members of the team are listed on the team roster. The roster includes individuals named by the captain as a regular member, additional member or replacement during the season.</p>

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 104b.

104b/1	<p>To whom does the team spot in a league belong - the captain, team members, league or sponsor?</p> <p>Captains hold the team franchise, as provided in Rule 104b. The spot remains with the captain from season to season unless recalled by the board. A franchise cannot be recalled during the season without sufficient cause. The team sponsor does not have control over the team franchise.</p>
104b/2	<p>What happens to the franchise or "spot" in the league if a team captain does not want it anymore?</p> <p>Most leagues set a date and require team captains to notify the officers of their intention to return the following season. According to Rule 104b, Item 2, if a captain does not wish to retain the franchise, or does not plan to return, the franchise reverts to the control of the board. The board may offer the franchise to another team member or someone who has requested to enter a team in the league.</p>
104b/3	<p>Can a captain choose not to ask the same team members back next season?</p> <p>Yes. Rule 104b states, all teams are automatically disbanded at the end of the league schedule. A team captain is not obligated to invite the same individuals back to be team members next season.</p>

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 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 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 104d.

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.

104d/4

Can you explain how to figure position standings on a percentage basis?

A league determines position standings on a percentage basis when it has an uneven number of teams and the league votes to use the bye system, or when all teams in the league do not bowl the same number of games (games ruled null and void or a team is added and is not allowed to make up missed games).

The following is an example of how to figure percentages:

Place	Team	Won	Lost	Total Pts	Percentage
1	C	38	10	48	.792
2	D	40	12	52	.769
3	B	35	13	48	.729
4	A	35	17	52	.673
5	E	26	26	52	.500

1. Add total points won and lost (plus unearned points when applicable).
2. Divide points won by total points.

The chart indicates standings of a league with four points in contention for each match. If a team (Team D) bowled 13 weeks and drew a bye for one week, it has the opportunity to win 52 points. If the team won 40 points out of the possible 52, it has a percentage of .769 in the standings after the 14th scheduled week. For match point leagues, there are more points in contention each week, but the method for figuring the percentage is the same as a four-point league.

Percentages are based on the number of points a team has the opportunity to win as compared to the number of points actually won. Team standing is determined by dividing the total number of points a team competed for into the number of points actually won.

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, unless otherwise provided by league rule:
 1. **Adult leagues:**
 - a) The vacancy score shall be 120.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 105.

105/1	<p>If an individual is absent the first night of bowling, is an absentee or vacancy score used?</p> <p>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 board of directors decides the matter.</p>
105/2	<p>If two members are absent and only one substitute is obtained, which absentee score is used?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.)</p>

105/3	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
105/4	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
105/5	<p>What is the difference between absentee and vacancy?</p> <p>As defined in Rule 105, Item e, an absentee score is used when a regular member is absent and a substitute is not available. Unless otherwise provided by league rule, the absentee score for each game shall be the member's current average less 10 pins and, in handicap leagues, the handicap is based on the member's current average.</p> <p>According to Rule 105, Item d, a vacancy score is used when the team's roster is less than the playing strength of the league. The vacancy score shall be 120 unless the league rules state another number. In handicap leagues, handicap for vacancy scores is calculated using the same handicap percentage the league utilizes for its regular members unless the league rules state otherwise. For example, if the league's regular handicap is 100% of 220, vacancy scores must be calculated on the same basis unless the league rules state otherwise.</p>
105/6	<p>Can a league adopt a rule stating there will be no handicap given for a vacancy score?</p> <p>Yes, the league can adopt a rule restricting handicap for a vacancy score. While USBC recommends that the vacancy score receive the same handicap percentage the league utilizes for its regular members, Rule 105, Item d allows the league by rule to determine the percentage of handicap the vacancy score will receive.</p>
105/7	<p>When it is discovered players were not eligible to bowl, can their scores be replaced by an absentee score?</p> <p>No, Rule 105, Item b states, under no circumstances may an absentee or vacancy score replace scores bowled by an ineligible player. According to Rule 103b, the league board is authorized to rule on protested games and declare them forfeited or null and void. When an ineligible player is used, games are generally forfeited. However, the board has the authority to declare the games null and void and have them rebowled. If a complaint or protest is not filed in accordance with Rule 119, the games would stand as bowled.</p>

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 or frame may be bowled on a different pair of lanes.

106b. Order of Bowling

Unless the league rules allow each game or frame to be bowled on a different pair of lanes, 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 Rule 106a and Rule 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 board of directors.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 107a.

107a/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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 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.</p>
107a/2	<p>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?</p> <p>If the team prebowed and the league session was subsequently cancelled, USBC recommends the board meet and choose one of the following options:</p> <p>Option 1. The prebowed scores are 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.</p> <p>Option 2. The league board null and voids the prebowed scores and the team is allowed to bowl the rescheduled league session.</p>

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 118a](#) 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. 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.
 - d. A team using a substitute is eligible for all high team prizes.

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:

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

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 107c.

107c/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
107c/2	<p>May a substitute bowl one game with one team and bowl the remaining two games with another team?</p> <p>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.</p>

107c/3	<p>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?</p> <p>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 board of directors must meet and make a decision by majority vote.</p>
107c/4	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
107c/5	<p>Can a league adopt a rule that limits each team to naming two substitutes who bowl only for a particular team during the season?</p> <p>Yes. There are two types of substitutes: designated and roving. A designated substitute generally bowls for one team as needed. A roving substitute is allowed to bowl with any team.</p> <p>Although USBC recommends roving substitutes be used, league rules may be adopted for using designated substitutes, and for setting a substitute limit. However, without a league rule, a team could have any number of designated or roving substitutes.</p>
107c/6	<p>What is the difference between a roster member and a substitute?</p> <p>Roster members generally pay league fees when they bowl and receive a prorated share of the team prize money. They have the same status in the league as other regular members and are eligible for individual awards offered by the league if they bowl the required number of games. A substitute usually does not pay league fees. Some leagues require the sub to pay bowling fees, but the regular members pay the prize portion. A substitute is not eligible for individual league prizes unless the league rules state otherwise. A league may by rule designate additional roster members as substitutes.</p>
107c/7	<p>May a league adopt a rule that substitutes not be allowed?</p> <p>Yes, however it is not recommended as it can place undue hardship on a team when members are absent due to illness or other reasons beyond their control. If a league believes a team might bring in high average bowlers as substitutes, the league may set eligibility requirements. For example, leagues may adopt a rule stating a substitute's average cannot exceed the absent member's average, or the substitute's average must be within a specified number of pins of the absent member's average.</p>
107c/8	<p>What is the difference between a regular member and an ADDITIONAL member of a team?</p> <p>A regular member and an additional member are interchangeable; they are members of the team. They are equal and have all rights and privileges in the league. If a membership meeting is called all members of a team could attend and vote.</p> <p>When a league adopts a rule to have a specific number of regular MEMBERS for a legal lineup</p>

	both regular members and additional members can be used for a legal lineup.
107c/9	<p>We have a six man roster with five bowling every week. Our sixth man only bowls when needed and does not pay the weekly fees. One of our regular five members resigned; can we use a vacancy score until we fill that spot?</p> <p>No, since the sixth man is considered a regular member of the team and not a substitute the team has a full complement of players and cannot use a vacancy score. If he/she cannot attend then his/her absentee score would be used and since the team has five regular bowlers the team would be required to pay league fees for five. A vacancy score cannot be used unless the team has four or less players on the team roster.</p>
107c/10	<p>We have a seven man roster with five bowling every week. Our additional members only bowl as needed. Our league rules require a regular bowler to have 21 games to be eligible to bowl in the position round. One of our regular five members and both additional members do not have 21 games. According to USBC Rule 107c, Item 9 does the league have to allow us to have a full complement of players?</p> <p>No, USBC Rule 107c, Item 9 does not apply in this instance. USBC holds that if an individual on the team had the opportunity to bowl 21 games and did not, then the team would have to use another eligible player (substitute if it is allowed) or an absentee score.</p>

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 118a](#) for average information.)

NOTE: For computing score: Take actual score for frames bowled; for a strike or spare in last frame bowled credit 10 pins. 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 108a.

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?
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
108a/2	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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 118a](#) for average information.)

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

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 108b.

108b/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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 bowler's average, only the first game is included in the bowler's average record.</p>
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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 one 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 109a.

109a/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
109a/2	<p>Can a league adopt a rule stating a legal lineup must be present at the start of a game or at a designated time?</p> <p>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.</p>
109a/3	<p>When a league allows for individual prebowls, do the scores count toward the legal lineup requirement?</p> <p>Yes the scores count towards the legal lineup requirement unless the league rules require a legal lineup present at the regular league session.</p>

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 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 109c.

109c/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>However, games two and three would not be forfeited since the team would have a legal lineup present.</p>
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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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 110a.

110a/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
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110a/2	<p>Can a league adopt a rule to curtail late or nonpayment of league fees?</p> <p>According to Rule 110a, a league could adopt a rule stating games will be forfeited if participants in a team’s lineup are not current in their fees. With such a rule, if the members present do not submit their own fees, the games are subject to forfeiture.</p> <p>However, games cannot be forfeited if fees are not paid when a member is absent or the team has a vacancy. If the absent member does not pay in full upon return, then all games the member bowls while in arrears would be subject to forfeiture if a timely protest is filed. The league board should not hesitate to enforce the rule when there is a violation and should be consistent in the application of its rules.</p>
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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.)

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 110c.

110c/1	<p>What is a known forfeit?</p> <p>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.</p>
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110c/2	<p>What is an unknown forfeit?</p> <p>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.</p>
110c/3	<p>If a team does not show up and a postponement was not requested, does the team present get all the points?</p> <p>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.</p>
110c/4	<p>When a team loses a game by forfeit, how do you determine who wins the point for total pins?</p> <p>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.</p>
110c/5	<p>A team meets the prescribed score (team average less ten pins per player) in a known forfeit situation. Do they split the point?</p> <p>No. When a team meets the prescribed score, the point(s) is (are) earned. There are no ties in this situation.</p>
110c/6	<p>If a team has to forfeit because an ineligible player is used, what happens to the scores bowled?</p> <p>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.</p>
110c/7	<p>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?</p> <p>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."</p>
110c/8	<p>Can a league adopt a no forfeit rule?</p> <p>No, USBC rules provide for a forfeit as a possible penalty when rules are violated.</p>

Rule 111 – Prebowl/Postponements

111a. Types

Types of prebowls 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 111a.

111a/1	<p>What is bowling unopposed?</p> <p>Bowling unopposed is when one team or an individual requests and is granted permission to bowl without its scheduled opponent at a time other than the regularly scheduled league time. The team or individual with permission may bowl prior to the scheduled date (prebowling) or after the scheduled date (a postponement).</p>
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111b. Reason

A league cannot adopt a rule that would have the effect of not permitting any prebowling/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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 111b.

111b/1	<p>What is considered sufficient cause for an emergency postponement?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
111b/2	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

111c. Request

Games must be bowled as scheduled, unless a request is made prior to the scheduled time, except for emergencies, and approval is granted.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 111c.

111c/1	<p>What happens when a team cannot field a legal lineup or does not appear and no prebowl or postponement is requested?</p> <p>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 72 hours of the final date of that schedule.</p>
111c/2	<p>Does a postponement have to be requested 48 hours prior to the scheduled night?</p> <p>No. A request for a postponement can be made any time prior to the scheduled match. If an emergency exists, the request should be made as soon as possible. However, the request must be made within the timelines of Rule 119.</p>
111c/3	<p>Can a league adopt a rule allowing individuals/teams to prebowl for an undetermined date and have the scores held by the league secretary until needed?</p> <p>No, all league games are to be bowled as scheduled unless they are postponed or prebowed by committee or board authorization. For a postponement to take place a request must be made and permission granted. Requests are made for a specific date and are made up at a time agreed upon by the committee or board.</p>

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.)

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 111d.

111d/1	<p>Who has the authority to call off bowling for the entire league because of bad weather?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 Rule 103b and Rule 111d, Item 1, which authorize the board to decide on postponements.</p>
111d/2	<p>How is a postponement for the entire league rescheduled?</p> <p>To reschedule a postponed league session, the proprietor should be consulted and the decision is made with agreement of the league board under Rule 103b. The season could be extended with the missed session bowled the following week and each succeeding week advanced. If arrangements can be made with the proprietor, the postponed games could be bowled any time lanes are available. Most importantly, ensure that everyone concerned understands how the rescheduling will be done.</p>

111d/3	<p>Can a league allow an officer to grant postponements?</p> <p>A committee consists of one or more individuals. Although we recommend a postponement committee of three, including the league secretary, it is acceptable for the president to appoint an officer to make the decision. All protests or challenges regarding postponements or prebowl are decided by the board.</p> <p>If a team cannot bowl at the regularly scheduled time, can they call the bowling center, bowl and turn the scores into the desk or league secretary? No. A team cannot pre- or postbowl without permission. Contacting the center does not fulfill the requirement to receive permission to pre- or postbowl. Only a committee or the board of directors can grant a prebowl or postponement.</p>
111d/4	<p>Can a league adopt a rule allowing the opposing team captain to grant postponements?</p> <p>No. The opposing team captain has neither the authority nor the responsibility to make that decision. When a request for a postponement is made, it is up to the league board of directors or postponement committee to decide what is sufficient cause to grant the postponement. The requirement is to assure that a team's right to request a postponement is protected and to be certain a team is not required to forfeit points because the opposing team might not grant a postponement.</p>
111d/5	<p>How is the decision made to grant a prebowl or postponement?</p> <p>The committee and/or board should carefully consider the reasons for each postponement request and be consistent in their decision-making. Although reasons for requests do not have to be catastrophic or an emergency, it is the committee or board's decision whether or not to grant the prebowl or postponement.</p> <p>When a committee consists of more than one person or the board makes the decision, a majority vote is required. The decision can be made at a meeting or via a telephone poll of all committee/board members.</p>

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 Rule 51a, Rule 51b, Rule 51c, Rule 51d, Rule 52a and Rule 52c.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 111e.

111e/1	<p>If a team is granted a prebowl or postponement and the opposing team is not notified, are the games forfeited?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If the league adopted a rule requiring notification and the opposing team was not notified, the league board would have the following options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Games stand as bowled. 2. Null and void both team’s scores and require both teams to re-bowl in direct opposition.
111e/2	<p>What average and handicap is used for a prebowl and/or postponement?</p> <p>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.</p>
111e/3	<p>When teams prebowl or post bowl unopposed, can the opposing team see the scores bowled by the team bowling first?</p> <p>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.</p>
111e/4	<p>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?</p> <p>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 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.</p>
111e/5	<p>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?</p> <p>If the team prebowed and the league session was subsequently cancelled, USBC recommends the board meet and choose one of the following options:</p> <p>Option 1. The prebowed scores are 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.</p> <p>Option 2. The league board null and voids the prebowed scores and the team is allowed to bowl the rescheduled league session.</p>
111e/6	<p>Our league rules allow both individuals and teams to prebowl. Can the league secretary hold the prebowed scores and apply them to individual average records on the date the prebowed games are bowled for?</p> <p>No. When individuals or teams are granted permission to prebowl for a specific league session, the scores at the time bowled become an immediate part of the bowler’s average record. Upon any successive competition in the league, the individual’s average must include all prior games bowled for purposes of determining handicap.</p>

111e/7	<p>Which USBC awards can and cannot be earned when pre- or post-bowling unopposed?</p> <p>The following awards can be earned:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="285 218 1409 420"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Rule 51a – Single Game Awards</td> <td>Rule 51b – Series Awards</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult</td> <td>All average based awards (items b-h)</td> <td>All average based awards (items c-g)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Youth</td> <td>Items c and d</td> <td>Items c and d</td> </tr> </table> <p>The following awards cannot be earned:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="274 497 1494 756"> <tr> <td>Rule 51a</td> <td>Rule 51b</td> <td>Rule 51c</td> <td>Rule 51d</td> <td>Rule 52b</td> <td>Rule 52c</td> </tr> <tr> <td>300 game</td> <td>·900 series</td> <td>National Team High Game and Series</td> <td>Baker 300 Game</td> <td>·Merit Awards</td> <td>National High Series</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eleven strikes in a row when the score is 299 or less</td> <td>·800 series</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Rule 51a – Single Game Awards	Rule 51b – Series Awards	Adult	All average based awards (items b-h)	All average based awards (items c-g)	Youth	Items c and d	Items c and d	Rule 51a	Rule 51b	Rule 51c	Rule 51d	Rule 52b	Rule 52c	300 game	·900 series	National Team High Game and Series	Baker 300 Game	·Merit Awards	National High Series	Eleven strikes in a row when the score is 299 or less	·800 series				
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111e/8	<p>If the unopposed pre- or post-bowling session is completed on the same date as the league’s regular session but only at a different time, will those games be eligible for USBC High Score awards?</p> <p>No. Since the games are bowled outside of the regularly scheduled league session (both date and time), the Rule 111e, Item 8, would apply and those games would not be eligible for USBC High Score awards.</p>																											
111e/9	<p>If our league has an uneven number of teams, will the team opposing the non-existent team be eligible to earn USBC High Score awards?</p> <p>Yes, provided the games are bowled during the regularly scheduled time, there will be no effect on USBC High Score award eligibility. However, if the team should bowl the match at a time other than the regularly scheduled time, this would be considered an unopposed pre- or postbowl. Rule 111e, Item 8, would then apply and those games would not be eligible for specific USBC High Score awards.</p>																											
111e/10	<p>Will pre- or post-bowled scores count for league awards?</p> <p>The pre- or post-bowled scores are eligible for all league awards, unless the league has adopted a rule otherwise. This includes scores pre- and post-bowled unopposed.</p>																											
111e/11	<p>Will individuals receive any USBC awards when pre- or post-bowling unopposed?</p> <p>The following awards can be earned:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="352 1583 1320 1787"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Rule 51a - Single Game Awards</td> <td>Rule 51b - Series Awards</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult</td> <td>All average based awards (items b-h)</td> <td>All average based awards (items c-g)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Youth</td> <td>Items c and d</td> <td>Items c and d</td> </tr> </table>		Rule 51a - Single Game Awards	Rule 51b - Series Awards	Adult	All average based awards (items b-h)	All average based awards (items c-g)	Youth	Items c and d	Items c and d																		
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111e/12	<p>If two teams from the same league are scheduled against each other and pre- or postbowl the games together, do they qualify for USBC High Score awards?</p> <p>Yes. Matches bowled in direct opposition qualify for USBC awards.</p>																											

111e/13	<p>If two teams from the same league NOT scheduled against each other, pre- or postbowl the games together, do they qualify for USBC High Score awards?</p> <p>No. While two teams from the same league are bowling together, they are not bowling in direct opposition because their scores are not being compared against each other to determine wins or losses. This is considered an unopposed situation; therefore, those games would not be eligible for specific USBC High Score awards.</p>
111e/14	<p>May our league adopt a rule to allow for unopposed pre- and post-bowled scores to count for USBC High Score awards?</p> <p>No. USBC award eligibility is determined by USBC Headquarters and cannot be superseded by an adopted league rule.</p>
111e/15	<p>If the league session is cancelled and rescheduled at a time different from our regularly scheduled time, do the scores bowled qualify for USBC High Score awards?</p> <p>When the league session is rescheduled, it is treated as a regularly scheduled session. Games bowled will be eligible for all USBC High Score awards. If teams choose not to bowl at the rescheduled time, and bowl those games unopposed at a different time, those games would not be eligible for specific USBC High Score awards.</p>

111f. Time Limit for Bowling

Prebowled/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](#).

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 111f.

111f/1	<p>What if a team granted a postponement does not make up the games within the league's time limit?</p> <p>A team can request an extension if they do not make up games within the time limit set by league rule. The committee or board considers the reason the games were not made up and decides whether to grant additional time to make the games up.</p>
111f/2	<p>Can a league adopt a rule placing a time limit on postponed games?</p> <p>Leagues can adopt rules placing a time limit to make up games bowled unopposed. However, they cannot adopt a rule for make-up games bowled in direct competition. Rule 111f states, postponements must be made up before the date of the scheduled competition for final team standings or each segment of a split season or seven days of the final date of the schedule or segment. The only exception is when a protest or appeal is pending finalization under Rule 119.</p> <p>Therefore, a league wanting to place time limits on direct competition make-up game(s), can adopt a rule indicating the game(s) "should" be made up within a specified time period.</p>

111f/3	<p>What happens if a postponement is not made up before the end of the season?</p> <p>If games are not made up before the end of the season (end of the half, quarter, etc.) as required by Rule 111f, the games are subject to forfeiture, unless the board rules otherwise. The board considers the reason why the games were never made up, and determines whether forfeiture is in order or if the games should be declared null and void, and the final position standings for all teams computed on percentages.</p>
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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. Unless league rules allow for co-champions, 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 113a.

113a/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
113a/2	<p>When there is a tie for the league championship, can a league adopt a rule stating total pins for the season will break the tie?</p> <p>No, according to the information located in Rule 113a (note box), total pins for the season cannot be used to break a tie for any place in the position standings. A league may adopt a rule to allow for co-champions, thus eliminating the need for a playoff, but not one that would use total pins.</p> <p>Position standings are determined on the basis of games or points won during the season in actual competition. Rule 113a, Item 1 states, a tie for first place must be decided with a playoff unless the rules allow for co-champions. Rule 113a, Item 4, provides a playoff must be conducted when a league decides to break a tie for any other position.</p>

	The difficulty involved in basing team standings on total pins can be illustrated by checking almost any league standing sheet. Frequently, a team in fifth or sixth place will have a larger total pin count than the team in third, second, maybe even first place. Usually prize money for any other tied place is combined and divided equally between the tied teams. If there are trophies involved, or if a league finds it necessary to break a tie for some other reason, a playoff must be held unless the rules allow for co-champions.
113a/3	The two teams tied for the first half championship don't want to have a special roll-off. They would like to use the games from the next time they are paired against each other for the roll-off and the regular match. Can they do this? No, there is no provision in USBC rules to allow scores to be used for more than one league session.

113b. Procedures

A playoff may not consist of less than one frame, scored like a 10th frame.

1. The following procedures apply, unless the league rules state otherwise:
 - a. Playoffs 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.
 - e. Games do not count toward individual averages or special league prizes.
2. The league secretary arranges to have lanes available.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 113b.

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: <table border="1" data-bbox="337 1669 1135 1908" style="margin: 10px auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>LANE</th> <th>A</th> <th>B</th> <th>C</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>First Game</td> <td>Team 3</td> <td>Team 1</td> <td>Team 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second Game</td> <td>Team 2</td> <td>Team 3</td> <td>Team 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Third Game</td> <td>Team 1</td> <td>Team 2</td> <td>Team 3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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
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Third Game	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3														

113b/3	<p>If a tie still exists after a playoff series is completed, how is the tie broken?</p> <p>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.</p>
113b/4	<p>When there is a tie for the winner of the first half in a split season, when should the playoff be conducted?</p> <p>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.</p>
113b/5	<p>If a league wants to adopt another league playoff format, what is acceptable?</p> <p>The league could adopt one of the following formats to determine the winner of the playoff. According to Rule 113b, under no circumstances may the playoff consist of less than one frame.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bowl one or more frames or games. Best two out of three games. Total pins of a three-game playoff series. A point for each game, but none for series. Stepladder finals.

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:

- Participation must be limited to league members or substitutes.
- USBC league or tournament rules govern play.
- 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.

- If a team or individual must withdraw, the following procedure is to be followed:
 - Two weeks notice must be given along with sufficient cause for resigning.
 - A team shall give notice to the league secretary.
 - A member resigning from a team shall give notice to the captain and the league secretary.
 - The resigning member(s) must pay league fees for two weeks if the bowler is not replaced within that period.
- 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 board determines otherwise. In addition, the member(s) shall be subject to suspension of USBC membership.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 114a.

114a/1	<p>Can the league adopt a rule requiring a league member’s resignation to be in writing?</p> <p>No, Rule 114a does not require written resignation, so a league requirement would not be enforced by USBC. If the captain was aware a bowler did not plan to return and the secretary was notified, then the notification requirement under Rule 114a would be fulfilled, even though the league rule has not been complied with. When a resignation is challenged, the question to be answered is whether those involved were aware the individual had actually resigned.</p>
114a/2	<p>If management has banned a league member from the center, do they qualify for prize money through the league?</p> <p>When a league member has been banned from the center, it is considered a forced action. The member removed qualifies for a portion of the team prize money prorated on the number of weeks the individual contributed to the prize fund.</p>
114a/3	<p>When a league member has been banned from the center, is the member required to provide a two-week notice?</p> <p>No. A member banned from the center is considered a forced action. Therefore, the individual is not required to provide a two-week notice as stated in Rule 114a.</p>
114a/4	<p>If a team member resigns or is replaced during the season, are they entitled to share the team’s prize money?</p> <p>Regardless of how long bowlers compete with a team, they qualify for a prorated share of the team’s prize money provided they resigned in accordance with Rule 114a or were replaced by the team captain.</p> <p>Rule 104a, Item 7, requires the team captain to pay each member of the team within 15 days after receiving prize money in accordance with any verbal or written agreements. USBC holds that prize distribution among team members is a team matter. When a member has bowled part of the season and is unable to be a member at the end of the schedule, it is common practice for teams to prorate prize money between the member who resigned and the replacement based on the number of games each bowled and paid for during the season.</p>

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 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 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.

NOTE: Leagues have the authority to act on verbal complaints.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 115a.

115a/1	<p>A player or team on the league continually uses foul language during league play. What can be done? The league officers should privately discuss the problem with the player(s) in question and the team's captain informing them that foul language is not acceptable in the league. If the player(s) continue(s), a written complaint may be filed with a league officer asking for dismissal from the league. The procedures outlined in Rule 115a must be followed.</p>
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115a/2	<p>When a league receives a written complaint asking for removal of an officer or dismissal of another player or a team, what must be done?</p> <p>The procedure outlined in Rule 115a must be followed. The president should schedule a meeting of the board of directors within one week of receiving a written complaint. A written notice stating the date, time and place of the meeting and a copy of the complaint must be provided to each individual charged. The board allows each person involved to be heard and ask questions before making a decision. To dismiss a player or remove an officer, a two-thirds vote of the board members present is required. In the case of an entire team, the board must vote on each team member separately. After the meeting, a written notice of the board's decision and the right to appeal must be given to the individuals involved.</p>
115a/3	<p>Can the league simplify things and adopt a rule to require automatic dismissal when a bowler misses two weeks in a row without an explanation?</p> <p>No. A member cannot be dismissed without following Rule 115a or Rule 115b. The rule could state that a bowler who owes league fees will be subject to dismissal, but not automatically. Written charges must be filed with the board, and the member must be notified of the meeting and be given the opportunity to defend themselves.</p>

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 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. (A [sample letter](#) can be found on [BOWL.com](#).)
 - 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 [checklist](#) can be found on [BOWL.com](#) .)
 - 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 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 115b.

115b/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
115b/2	<p>How should the league handle a member whose checks are constantly being returned because of insufficient funds?</p> <p>When a member’s check is returned because of insufficient funds, the treasurer should contact the member and insist on cash payment for the amount of the check plus any service charges incurred. If payment is not received, the member could be charged with nonpayment of league fees under Rule 115b. We also suggest that no further checks be accepted and the player notified that league fees can only be paid in cash. If checks are a problem, the league may adopt a rule stating checks will not be accepted for payment of league fees. In instances where a league has an arrearage rule, the member issuing the check is considered in arrears. Games bowled by the member are subject to forfeiture if payment is not received.</p>
115b/3	<p>If a member leaves the league without notice and still owes fees, what should an officer do?</p> <p>When a member is accused of leaving the league without notice and owing fees, the league should try to resolve the matter prior to disciplinary action. Many bowlers are not aware they may be suspended from USBC membership for nonpayment of league fees. If payment is not received, a written complaint should be filed immediately with the board and copied to the delinquent member. The provisions of Rule 115b must be followed.</p>
115b/4	<p>If a member leaves the league and is delinquent in their league fees, how many sessions can they be charged for in accordance with Rule 115b?</p> <p>According to Rule 115b, Item 1(d)(1), the bowler may not be charged for more than six (6) sessions. Immediate action should be taken by the league upon discovering an individual is not returning and still owes league fees.</p>

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 score book kept by the team captain or someone appointed by the captain for this purpose.
4. The scoresheet is the official record, and the team score books must agree with the scoresheet at the end of each game.
5. After the score books 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 board.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 116a.

116a/1	Does the league board have to meet before an error can be corrected? When an obvious error is to be corrected, a directive from the board is not necessary; a league officer is authorized to make changes. However, Rule 116a, Item 6 states, the board of directors decides on questionable errors in scoring or calculation.
116a/2	Is there a time limit for correcting errors in scoring or calculation? Corrections may be made until the prizes are distributed. The 15-day time limit of Rule 119 does not apply.

116a/3	<p>Can an error on a score sheet or recap sheet be corrected after the team captains have signed the recap sheet?</p> <p>Yes. Although Rule 104a, Item 5, and Rule 116a, Item 5, require the captains to sign the scorebook and verify the scores bowled, their signatures do not prevent a score from being corrected. An officer is required by Rule 116a, Item 6, to correct errors if they are found after the captains have signed the recap sheets. Both captains should be notified of the corrections.</p>
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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 cannot be documented or agreed upon by the opposing team captains shall be rebowled, unless the board of directors rules them null and void.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 116b.

116b/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
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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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 117a.

117a/1	<p>What voting procedures are used when the prize committee submits multiple prize lists?</p> <p>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 board of directors should approve one of the following options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
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117a/2	<p>How is prize money paid out under a split season format?</p> <p>Many leagues bowling a split season find it more satisfactory to approve a prize list for each segment. The payments are based on team position standings in each segment, although the prize money is not usually paid out at the end of each segment. Some leagues pay money for the number of points won rather than on position standings.</p>
117a/3	<p>What happens if the league did not adopt a prize list in accordance with Rule 117a?</p> <p>According to USBC Rule 102c, Item 5, and Rule 117a, the league president arranges to have the prize committee submit one or more prize lists for consideration by the fifth week after the start of the season. If a prize committee was not appointed, the president should appoint one immediately and one or more prize lists should be submitted to the league board for approval as soon as possible.</p> <p>Rule 117a, Item 2, provides that the board of directors approves the prize list, unless the league rules provide for the adoption by the membership. Once approved, the prize list cannot be changed without written consent from every team captain or designated representative.</p>

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 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 117b.

117b/1	<p>Two league members are in contention for the high average award, but one of them bowled half of the season as a substitute. Are they both eligible for prize consideration?</p> <p>According to Rule 117b, scores bowled as a substitute are not eligible for prize consideration for any award based on average. Thus, the substitute who later became a regular member is not eligible for the award as they did not bowl two-thirds of the season as a regular member.</p>
117b/2	<p>We limit our members to just one individual award. Would the high average award be included in the prize limitation for members?</p> <p>Many leagues regard high average as a special achievement or accomplishment, thereby exempting a member earning that award from the league’s provision limiting members to one award. However, a league by rule can limit the number of awards an individual would be eligible for, and can include the high average award in that limitation.</p>
117b/3	<p>If members qualify for both a handicap and scratch award, and the league rule limits a member to one award but does not state which one takes precedence, how is award distribution determined?</p> <p>In accordance with Rule 103b, the league board should make the decision. Some bowlers believe scratch scores are more meaningful, while others believe handicap awards should take precedence in a handicap league. The board will make the decision and a league rule should be adopted for the next season.</p>
117b/4	<p>Can scratch awards be issued in a handicap league?</p> <p>Yes, as long as provided by league rules or the adopted prize list.</p>
117b/5	<p>A member is in contention for the high game award, but the member bowled as a substitute during the early part of the season. The player bowled the game as a regular member and not as a substitute. Is the member eligible for the league prize?</p> <p>Yes, provided the individual bowled the required number of games (such as two-thirds), which must be bowled during the season to be eligible for an individual award. According to Rule 117b, Item 2(a)(2), the games bowled as a substitute and as a regular member is combined to determine the required number of games, unless the league rules state otherwise. Therefore, since the member bowled the game as a regular league member, they would be eligible for the award.</p>
117b/6	<p>Our league gives out an award for the high average bowler in the league. The league has a rule requiring participants to bowl two-thirds of the scheduled league games or 60 games to be eligible for a league award. The bowler who has high average bowled 84 games in the league but their first 12 games in the league were bowled as a substitute. Is the bowler still eligible for high average award?</p> <p>Yes. The league secretary subtracts the 12 games and resulting pinfall bowled as a substitute from the 84 game total. If the bowler still has high average based on the 72 games bowled as a regular member, they would be entitled to the award provided they have bowled at least 2/3 of the league’s schedule as a regular member.</p>

117b/7	<p>If a member’s average exceeds the base figure for handicapping, is the member eligible for handicap awards?</p> <p>The member is eligible for handicap awards unless the league has adopted a rule limiting awards to those with averages under the base figure (see Rule 117b, Item 2).</p>
117b/8	<p>If a team member resigns or is replaced during the season, are they entitled to share the team’s prize money?</p> <p>Regardless of how long bowlers compete with a team, they qualify for a prorated share of the team’s prize money provided they resigned in accordance with Rule 114a or were replaced by the team captain.</p> <p>Rule 104a, Item 7, requires the team captain to pay each member of the team within 15 days after receiving prize money in accordance with any verbal or written agreements. USBC holds that prize distribution among team members is a team matter. When a member has bowled part of the season and is unable to be a member at the end of the schedule, it is common practice for teams to prorate prize money between the member who resigned and the replacement based on the number of games each bowled and paid for during the season.</p>

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.

(Team & Individual Average Record sheets can be found on BOWL.com.)

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 118a.

118a/1	<p>Two bowlers are tied for high average at the end of the season. Should their averages be carried out to fractions of a pin or do they both get trophies?</p> <p>Extra pins must be carried out to a fraction of a pin to determine who has the higher average. Divide each bowler’s total pins for the season by the number of games bowled and carry it out several decimal places. However, two bowlers could be tied in averages, including the fraction of a pin. If they are tied, they should each receive an award.</p>
118a/2	<p>In a split-season league, we know standings are started over at the half, but how about averages?</p> <p>A rule may be adopted to start averages over again at the split in the schedule for handicapping purposes only, although it is not recommended. Rule 118a states, in part, a bowling average is determined by dividing the total number of pins credited to a bowler by the number of games bowled in one league in a season. If a member needs average verification, the average has to be computed on the basis of all games bowled by the member, and not just those games bowled in the first or second segment. When final averages are reported, each must be based on all games bowled and on total pins for the entire season.</p>

118a/3	<p>Our league rules allow both individuals and teams to prebowl. Can the league secretary hold the prebowed scores and apply them to individual average records on the date the prebowed games are bowled for?</p> <p>No. When individuals or teams are granted permission to prebowl for a specific league session, the scores at the time bowled become an immediate part of the bowler’s average record. Upon any successive competition in the league, the individual’s average must include all prior games bowled for purposes of determining handicap.</p>
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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 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 118b.

118b/1	<p>If a bowler uses his/her opposite hand to make a delivery during a game, what happens?</p> <p>If an individual does not have permission from the league board of directors, a league officer or the league board would then have the following options within the timelines as stated in Rule 119.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
118b/3	<p>A bowler is using the two-handed approach. The bowler's dominate hand is the right hand. Can the bowler use the right hand for spares?</p> <p>Yes, since both deliveries are with the same dominate hand, the bowler did not change his delivery and therefore, is not in violation of any USBC rules.</p>
118b/4	<p>A player started league bowling right handed, but later decided to use a two handed approach. Is this a change of delivery and in violation of Rule 118b?</p> <p>No, as long as all deliveries are made with the right hand, this would not be a violation of Rule 118b.</p>

118b/5

What are the requirements of a delivery for a two-handed approach?

A two-handed bowler is required to use the same dominant hand during their delivery on both their first and second shots (this refers to the hand in which the bowling ball rests). They also have the option of utilizing a thumb hole or not—both are acceptable. However, only one set of gripping holes is allowed.

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 118c.

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 118d.

118d/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
118d/2	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>

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 board of directors, by majority vote, may permit the bowler to change delivery. If approval is obtained, the bowler must establish a new average.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 118e.

118e/1	<p>May a bowler switch his/her delivery after the start of the season due to injury?</p> <p>Yes. However, the bowler is required to obtain permission from the league 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.</p>
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Rule 119. Protest/Appeal Procedures

The league 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 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 119.

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. Guidelines on how to file a proper protest, can be found on BOWL.com.
119/2	When a team uses an ineligible player, can a league officer declare games forfeited? Yes, league officers have authority to take action regarding games bowled by an ineligible player if detected within the time frames stated in Rule 119. If action is not taken within the time period, the games stand. League officials have the power to enforce league rules and to declare game(s) forfeited. If an officer fails to act, or a league member decides to challenge the officer's decision, a written protest would have to be filed in accordance with Rule 119.

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 120.

120/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
120/2	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
120/3	<p>How are lanes assigned for position matches?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.)</p>
120/4	<p>Can a substitute be used in a position round or a playoff?</p> <p>Yes, a substitute may be used provided the league has not adopted a rule stating otherwise.</p>
120/5	<p>Should position matches be determined when the schedule is adopted before the season begins or during the season?</p> <p>According to Rule 120, the league should decide on position matches when rules are adopted before the season begins. When the schedule is prepared, position matches are inserted as directed by the league rule. If a rule for position matches is not adopted before the season begins, unanimous written consent of all team captains or representatives is required to allow for position matches in the schedule.</p>
120/6	<p>How are position match pairing determined when teams fail to make up postponement(s) or all teams in the league have not bowled the same number of games?</p> <p>When postponed games have not been completed before a position match or all teams have not bowled the same number of games to date, the secretary determines team pairings on a percentage of wins and losses when scheduling the position match.</p>

120/7

Can you explain how to figure position standings on a percentage basis?

A league determines position standings on a percentage basis when it has an uneven number of teams and the league votes to use the bye system, or when all teams in the league do not bowl the same number of games (games ruled null and void or a team is added and is not allowed to make up missed games).

Percentages are based on the number of points a team has the opportunity to win as compared to the number of points actually won. Team standing is determined by dividing the total number of points a team competed for into the number of points actually won.

The following is an example of how to figure percentages:

Place	Team	Won	Lost	Total Pts	Percentage
1	C	38	10	48	.792
2	D	40	12	52	.769
3	B	35	13	48	.729
4	A	35	17	52	.673
5	E	26	26	52	.500

1. Add total points won and lost (plus unearned points when applicable).
2. Divide points won by total points.

The chart indicates standings of a league with four points in contention for each match. If a team (Team D) bowled 13 weeks and drew a bye for one week, it has the opportunity to win 52 points. If the team won 40 points out of the possible 52, it has a percentage of .769 in the standings after the 14th scheduled week. For match point leagues, there are more points in contention each week, but the method for figuring the percentage is the same as a four-point league.

120/8

When there are an uneven number of teams in the league at the time of a position round, which team is paired against the non-existent team or is given a bye?

Since pairings for matches start with the first place team, the last place team ends up with the nonexistent team as its opponent, unless league rules state otherwise. That team bowls to earn the points or is given a bye.

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](#).)

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 121.

121/1	<p>Who is responsible for the league fees when a team is unable to find a bowler to fill a vacancy?</p> <p>When there is a vacancy on a team for a prolonged period, and the team has made a serious effort to obtain a member but is not successful, it becomes a league problem and not just a team problem. In this situation, the board should agree to absorb the shortage caused by the vacancy. All league members should be encouraged to help recruit bowlers to fill vacancies.</p>
121/2	<p>I have been told my son must pay league fees each week even if he is absent. Is this permitted in a youth league?</p> <p>The league may have this requirement; however, if a league wishes to do this we recommend the league's rules clearly indicate the specific amount of fees that must be paid on a weekly basis. If a league member is behind in paying league fees, the league has the authority to prohibit them from competing until the arrearage is paid.</p>

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.

(For more information on conducting meetings, see the [League Operations Handbook](#).)

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 122.

122/1	<p>If a rule is adopted or changed after the league schedule starts, when does it become effective?</p> <p>When a league adopts new or changes existing rules, the rule revisions become effective immediately upon adoption and cannot be made retroactive.</p>
122/2	<p>Can league rules adopted at the end of the season be changed before the schedule starts?</p> <p>Yes. According to Rule 122, rules must be adopted at a meeting prior to the start of the league schedule. Therefore, a league may discuss and vote on their rules at the end of the season or during the off-season. However, rules adopted before the start of the season may be changed prior to the start of the league schedule by majority vote.</p>
122/3	<p>Can center management attend a league meeting?</p> <p>Yes. Center management has a vested interest in the leagues within the center. Many choose to attend meetings to answer questions related to the center and its policies and advise leagues when adopting rules. However, unless center personnel present is a member of the league, they do not have voting privileges on motions before the league.</p>

Chapter 5: Sport Bowling

Introduction

The rules included in this chapter are unique to Sport Bowling, an optional upgrade to standard membership. Sport Bowling is recognized as the highest level of competitive bowling and takes place on more challenging lane patterns designed to emphasize a bowler's consistency and ability to deal with changing lane conditions. 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 start of competition.

The following rules for Sport Bowling were approved by USBC in accordance with the authority granted it in *Article 4, Section E of the USBC Bylaws*. 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.

More information on Sport Bowling can be found on BOWL.com.

Rule 200 – Definition

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.

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 (\$15 for adults; \$10 for youth) 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 below would be used to adjust Sport Bowling averages upward, as required, for use in standard competition.

Sport Bowling League Average Adjustment to Standard Average

Sport League Average	Adjusted Average	Sport League Average	Adjusted Average	Sport League Average	Adjusted Average
0-130	Same	160	171	190	205
131	133	161	172	191	205
132	135	162	173	192	206
133	137	163	174	193	207
134	138	164	176	194	208
135	141	165	178	195	208
136	143	166	179	196	208
137	144	167	182	197	208
138	146	168	183	198	209
139	147	169	185	199	210
140	148	170	187	200	211
141	149	171	189	201	212
142	149	172	190	202	213
143	150	173	190	203	214
144	151	174	191	204	215
145	151	175	192	205	216
146	152	176	193	206	217
147	153	177	194	207	218
148	156	178	195	208	219
149	157	179	196	209	219
150	159	180	197	210	220
151	160	181	198	211	221
152	161	182	199	212	222
153	162	183	200	213	222
154	164	184	201	214	222
155	165	185	202	215	222
156	166	186	203	216	223
157	167	187	204	217	224
158	169	188	205	218	225
159	170	189	205	219 and up	SL Avg +7

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 202a

202a/1	<p>What is a Sport Bowling Average Adjustment Chart?</p> <p>a. The Average Adjustment Table has been formulated through evaluation of Sport League bowlers on various Sport lane conditions. As additional data is obtained, slight changes to the scale may occur yearly. If so, the updated scale will be appropriately distributed.</p> <p>b. The Average Adjustment Table has been statistically designed to correct 95% of the Sport League bowlers' averages to within 5% of their standard average.</p> <p>c. The Average Adjustment Table is not considered a "re-rate" of the bowler; it is to allow for a fair adjustment to what would be expected of the bowler during competition on a typical league and tournament condition.</p> <p>d. The Average Adjustment Table does not supersede the abilities of a tournament director to further adjust a bowler's entering average upward prior to participation in a tournament. See Rule 319c.</p> <p>For reference, see Rules 202b, 202c, 202d and 202e.</p>
202a/2	<p>If I have an established USBC standard average and a USBC Sport Bowling average, what entering average is used in a standard tournament/league?</p> <p>If a bowler has an established standard average, that average shall be used for all standard tournaments/leagues unless the tournament/league entering average rules state otherwise.</p>

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. 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 raise a bowler's adjusted average prior to entering. A bowler's failure to comply with these provisions could result in forfeiture of games bowled.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 202b

202b/1	<p>If a bowler only bowls in a Sport Bowling league, how is his/her average adjusted for standard leagues and tournaments?</p> <p>Because Sport Bowling conditions are more challenging than typical standard conditions, a bowler's average under Sport conditions will typically be lower. We have confirmed this through the analysis of scores from Sport Bowling leagues and tournaments. In an effort to equalize competition during standard tournaments, an Average Adjustment Table has been formulated for bowlers who ONLY have a Sport Bowling average. See Rule 202a for the Average Adjustment scale.</p>
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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 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 raise the bowler's adjusted average prior to bowling. A bowler's failure to comply with these provisions could result in disqualification.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 202d

202d/1	If I bowl in a USBC standard tournament and my Sport Bowling average is adjusted, will I qualify for USBC standard tournament awards? Yes, providing all of the tournament eligibility requirements are met.
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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 [Rule 203](#) and [Rule 205](#) have been met, for the following accomplishments:

Series	Game	Elite Average
900*	300*, 299*	215 and greater, Adult Male (21 games)
800 to 899*	75 pins over average	195 and greater, Adult Female (21 games)
Clean Series	11 strikes in a row, in a game of 298 or less*	200 and greater, Youth Male (21 games)
		180 and greater, Youth Female (21 games)

**Cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.*

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 except for the 300 game. (Members receive the Sport Bowling 300 game “Add a Stone” ring for their first Sport 300 game. Diamonds for the ring are issued for each successive 300 Sport game). Standard USBC awards will be issued for all accomplishments not covered above. Scores bowled on non-complying Sport Bowling conditions will be issued standard USBC awards.

Sport National High Average*

1. Each fiscal year, recognition will be given to the USBC male, female, youth male and youth female Sport bowling member having the highest USBC sport average based on 48 or more games bowled as a USBC Sport bowling member in a USBC Sport league.
2. The association is to forward information concerning these members who have attained a qualifying average to USBC Headquarters, Attn. Sport Bowling.
3. To be eligible for recognition, all qualifying averages must be received by USBC Headquarters on or before October 1 of the next fiscal year.

**Cannot be earned while pre or post bowling unopposed.*

204/1	<p>Will I receive a Sport award if the lanes do not meet the minimum requirements for a Sport Bowling pattern?</p> <p>If the lane conditions do not comply with Sport Bowling lane dressing requirements, an award from the standard USBC program will be issued where applicable. See Rules 203 and 204 for further reference.</p>
204/2	<p>If I bowl in a Sport League and also bowl in a standard league, will I earn both a Sport award and a standard award?</p> <p>USBC Sport bowlers remain eligible to receive regular recognition in standard leagues/tournaments for the same achievement in accordance with the USBC rules governing standard bowling. For example, a member bowling a 300 game in a Sport Bowling league will receive the Sport 300 award. If at another time the same member bowls a 300 game in standard competition, they would also receive the standard 300 award.</p>

204/3	<p>If I bowl a 600 series in a standard league, may I also get a 600 in a sport league?</p> <p>USBC does not offer a separate Sport award for a 600 series. If a Sport Bowling member qualifies for both a 600 series in Sport Bowling competition and standard competition, he/she will only receive the award for the first qualifying 600 series.</p>
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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.

205/1	<p>Are there any equipment restrictions for Sport Bowling?</p> <p>As part of the technical requirements for Sport Bowling, the program has no equipment restrictions at this time. However, league rules may be adopted to restrict equipment, i.e., two-ball leagues, plastic ball leagues. Visit the league formats section on the Sport Bowling page on BOWL.com for some great league format ideas.</p>
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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:

1. Be USBC certified.
2. Have access to a tape take-up device.
3. Have registered the center online on SportBowling.com.
4. Have an approved Sport Bowling lane dressing inspection on file with USBC Headquarters.
5. Submit graphs and/or tapes every week for every competition.
6. 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).

206a/1	<p>What is the process for submitting tapes/graphs for leagues?</p> <p>Tapes or graphs are required to be submitted to USBC Headquarters for your league on a weekly basis.</p> <p>Sport Bowling tapes/graphs may be sent to USBC Headquarters as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Graphs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Faxed to 817-385-8260; or 2. E-mailed to sportbowling@BOWL.com b. Tapes are mailed to: United States Bowling Congress Attn. Sport Bowling 621 Six Flags Drive Arlington, Texas 76011
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206a/2	<p>What happens if we fail to submit weekly tapes or graphs?</p> <p>Failure to submit tapes or graphs may result in your bowling center's Sport Bowling certification being pulled. Sport Bowling retains the right to withdraw a center/league's Sport Certification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If the center fails to meet the requirements of Rule 206a, which includes submitting graphs or tapes every week of competition. b. If the center accumulates two warnings within a 12-month period for non-compliance. <p>See Rule 206b and the <i>USBC Sport Bowling Manual, Chapter 5, Section 5.3.5</i>, for the complete directive.</p>
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206b. Retention of Sport Center Certificates

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:

1. Failure to Submit Tapes/Graphs.
 - a. A league that fails to submit graphs/tapes for two (2) consecutive weeks will be contacted by USBC to determine the problem and assist with a resolution.
 - b. If USBC does not receive tapes for four (4) weeks, a warning letter will be issued providing 14 days to come into compliance.
 - c. After six (6) consecutive weeks of no tapes, the league's Sport certification for that season will be pulled.
2. Noncompliant Sport Conditions.

If a league submits graphs/tapes and are noncompliant:

 - a. 0-15% weeks of the league schedule, the USBC Headquarters will contact the league contact/center to discuss noncompliance and assist with resolution.
 - b. 16-35% weeks of the league schedule, USBC Headquarters will determine the extent of noncompliant issues and, at its discretion, make a decision which could be pulling the Sport Bowling certification of the league.
 - c. 36% or more weeks of the league schedule, the league Sport Bowling certification automatically will be pulled for the remainder of that league schedule.

(See the *USBC Sport Bowling Technical Manual* in the Sport Bowling section of BOWL.com.)

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.

Chapter 6: Tournament Rules

Rule 300 – Tournaments

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

USBC will issue a tournament certificate provided:

1. Application is made prior to the start of the tournament using the [Tournament Certification Program](#) on [BOWL.com](#). USBC will determine the amount of coverage, if any, for tournament applications received after the tournament begins.
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 302](#), 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 302](#), Mail-o-Graphic Tournament.

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 300b.

300b/1	My tournament starts tomorrow. Can I still certify my tournament with USBC? Yes. You may apply for certification until the starting date of the tournament on BOWL.com .
300b/2	Is there a cost to certify a tournament with USBC? No, there is no fee charged to certify your tournament with USBC.
300b/3	I want to hold a tournament each month; do I have to certify each tournament separately? You may certify each tournament separately or you can apply for a comprehensive tournament certification to cover the entire tournament. To apply for a comprehensive certification, all dates and centers are entered.

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:** \$17 (\$14.50 National, \$2 local processing, \$.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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 301a.

301a/1	<p>I am conducting a house tournament for bowlers who only participate in leagues at our center. Would this qualify for a moral support certification?</p> <p>No, a moral support tournament is one in which the tournament is conducted by a single civic, fraternal, benevolent, military service, union or religious organization. This would include groups such as Firefighters, Elks, Eagles, Lions, Moose and Military. Guests cannot participate, all participants must be affiliated with the organization.</p>
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301b. Youth

A Youth Tournament is one in which youth members participate where no cash or bonds are offered or merchandise prizes exceed \$500 in value.

Youth participants shall not wear apparel or use bowling equipment depicting alcohol, tobacco, gambling, an illegal substance or inappropriate language/gestures during competition.

This rule also applies to youth bowling in adult/youth tournaments.

Penalty: First offense will result in a verbal warning and apparel change or removal of equipment. Failure to comply will cause the bowler's score to be disqualified and the bowler to be removed from the competition.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 301b.

301b/1	<p>I plan on conducting a youth tournament and want to award scholarship prizes. Is this okay?</p> <p>Yes. All youth tournaments that pay out scholarship prizes must use the SMART (Scholarship Management and Accounting Reports for Tenpins) program for all scholarship awards. All scholarship funds must be forwarded to SMART at USBC Headquarters within 30 days of the completion of the tournament with a list of scholarship winners.</p>
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301c. 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 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 301c.

301c/1	<p>I plan on conducting a youth/adult doubles tournament and want to award scholarship prizes for the youth participants. Is this okay?</p> <p>Yes. All the scholarship prizes awarded to the youth participants must be forwarded to the SMART (Scholarship Management and Accounting Reports for Tenpins) program within 30 days of the completion of the tournament with a list of scholarship winners. The adult prizes, if any, must be merchandise valued at \$500 or less.</p>
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301d. Scholarship

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

301e. 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 – 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:

- a. All scores are submitted to the tournament manager who enters the scores and determines team and/or individual standings.
- b. All scores used are from certified competition.
- c. USBC will certify such tournaments provided:
 1. All USBC equipment specifications apply.
 2. All rules for USBC tournaments shall apply insofar as applicable.
 3. Application must designate tournament as a mail-o-graphic tournament.
- d. 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 [BOWL.com](#).

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 303.

303/1	<p>After receiving my tournament certification, I found the need to make a change to my printed rules. What should I do?</p> <p>If it becomes necessary to make changes to the rules, you may edit your tournament rules on-line any time prior to the start of competition. In addition, the change(s) must be posted in a prominent manner in the registration/check-in area and also included in announcements made prior to each scheduled squad.</p>
303/2	<p>After reviewing my tournament certification, a conflict arose regarding the scheduled dates for the tournament what should I do if either the tournament dates and/or the center at which the tournament is scheduled must be changed?</p> <p>As long as the tournament has not yet started, the changes can be made on-line or you may contact the Rules Team at USBC Headquarters.</p>
303/1	<p>I need to disqualify a bowler for a rule infraction from the tournament. What do I need to do?</p> <p>When a violation occurs that requires disqualification of an individual or team, the following procedure should be followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The individual(s) or team captain should be notified in writing of the disqualification. The letter should state the reason(s) for disqualification. The letter should inform the individual that they have the right to appeal in writing to USBC. (See sample letters for Rule 319a-2, Rule 319a-3, Rule 319d and/or Rule 319e on BOWL.com.) <p>Payment of prizes affected must be withheld until USBC has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified the tournament that a timely appeal has not been filed; or Resolved a timely appeal that was filed.

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 304.

304/1	<p>When a team member has been replaced and the team qualifies for a tournament prize, who is entitled to the prize?</p> <p>According to Rule 304, Item a, the team captain is responsible for receiving in trust any prizes the team wins and distributing them according to verbal or written agreements with the team members. Traditionally, the prize money goes to the individuals that bowled unless other prior arrangements were made.</p>
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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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 305.

305/1	I have a problem with the bowlers getting their entries in on time. Can I charge a late fee? Yes, a late fee can be charged. However, the amount of the fee and deadline must be stated in the rules.
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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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 308.

308/1	<p>I am starting a new tournament and would like to guarantee payment of the first place prize money. The only problem is that I am not confident that there will be enough entries to cover what I plan to pay out. What recommendations can USBC provide to me?</p> <p>Any advertised guaranteed prize(s) must be paid regardless of the number of entries received. Therefore,</p> <p>USBC recommends that prizes be estimated based on a specific number of entries instead of offering guaranteed prizes. Then, if the anticipated number of entries is not received, you can pay your prizes on a direct percentage basis to the number of entries received as opposed to the number of entries on which such prizes are based.</p>
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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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 310a.

310a/1	Can a tournament add additional squads? Yes, additional squads can be added if the rules or advertising material include a statement such as <i>“Additional squads may be added during the tournament prior to the last scheduled squad.”</i> However, no additional squads may be added after the last advertised squad.
310a/2	A tournament was cancelled because of a bad snow storm. Can tournament management reschedule the squads? If the complete operation of the tournament is shut down for an entire day or weekend, tournament management may request an extension by contacting the USBC Rules Team. Only those individuals originally entered to bowl on the cancelled squad(s) are permitted to bowl on the rescheduled date.

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 310b.

310b/1	Can a tournament add additional squads? Yes, additional squads can be added if the rules or advertising material include a statement such as <i>“Additional squads may be added during the tournament prior to the last scheduled squad.”</i> However, no additional squads may be added after the last advertised squad.
310b/2	A tournament was cancelled because of a bad snow storm. Can tournament management reschedule the squads? If the complete operation of the tournament is shut down for an entire day or weekend, tournament management may request an extension by contacting the USBC Rules Team. Only those individuals originally entered to bowl on the cancelled squad(s) are permitted to bowl on the rescheduled date.

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 312.

312/1	Can a tournament change rules once published? Rule changes may be made any time prior to the start of competition. Tournament management should post change(s) in a prominent manner in the registration/check-in area and also included in announcements made prior to each scheduled squad.
312/2	Can tournament dates and/or the center at which the tournament is scheduled be changed? As long as the tournament has not yet started, the changes can be made by tournament management on-line or by contacting the USBC Rules Team.

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, except that only

USBC league averages shall be accepted:

- a. Individual averages must be based on a minimum of 12 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.
- 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. [Rule 319a](#), [Rule 319d](#) and [Rule 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.
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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 319a.

319a/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
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319a/2	<p>Last year a bowler averaged 190 right-handed. Due to an injury, he is bowling left-handed this season and averaging 127. The bowler would like to participate in the city and state tournaments bowling left-handed. However, the tournament rules require participants to use their highest previous season average and the bowler does not want to bowl left handed using his 190 right-handed average. Can the bowler apply for tournament average relief? If so, how?</p> <p>Through the provisions of Rule 4e, a player now has the ability to request relief from an established average under injury or disability circumstances. All applications for tournament average relief must be submitted to USBC Headquarters first for consideration prior to participation. (See Rule 4e for details.)</p> <p>If authorization is granted by USBC Headquarters, the player will be notified in writing of the minimum average a tournament may assign and the time limit for the relief. The bowler then must request tournament management’s permission to use the assigned average. However, tournament management still has the authority to deny the relief and require the bowler to use the average as stated in tournament rules or assign the bowler an average that meets or exceeds the minimum established by USBC.</p>
319a/3	<p>According to the tournament rules, entrants must enter with their highest previous season league average. A bowler enters with a 170 previous season average. The tournament rules also require the reporting of 10 pin increase in league average at time of bowling. In league play the evening before the tournament, the bowler shoots a big series raising his/her average to 180. Must the bowler enter and use the higher 180 average?</p> <p>Yes, bowlers are responsible to verify the accuracy of their average. In accordance with Rule 319a, Item 2, the bowler needs to calculate his/her league average up to and including the last time he/she bowled in a league prior to competing in the tournament.</p>
319a/4	<p>Is a bowler responsible for verification of their average even though the entry blanks are completed and submitted by the team captain, squad sponsor, etc.?</p> <p>Yes. In accordance with Rule 319a, Item 3, it is the bowler’s responsibility to verify the accuracy of their entering average in handicap or classified tournaments whether originally submitted by the bowler or some other individual. The bowler should verify his/her average on the re-cap sheet to determine if it was correctly submitted. If necessary, an average correction can be made up to the end of the bowler’s first game of the 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.</p>

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 319c.

319c/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
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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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 319d.

319d/1	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>
319d/2	<p>Does a scratch bowler bowling in a house tournament have to report prize winnings of \$600 or more in accordance with Rule 319d?</p> <p>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.</p>
319d/3	<p>Tournament rules require the reporting of prize winnings in accordance with Rule 319d. Is a bowler required to report a \$600 or more prize earned in another tournament that is over even though the bowler has not received his/her prize check?</p> <p>Yes, Rule 319d requires anyone who has qualified for a cash and/or merchandise prize of \$600 or more to report this information as a condition of entry. Therefore, it was the bowler's responsibility to verify the amount won and report the prize.</p>

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 319e.

319e/1	<p>A 150-average bowler enters a handicap tournament that uses Rule 319e. After bowling a 650 series in the singles, the tournament manager provides the bowler with an affidavit that must be filled out and returned within 15 days. The form requires the bowler to provide his scores, prize winnings and dates of all other tournaments he has bowled in over the past 12 months. Upon receipt of the requested information, it is determined that the bowler's tournament average for 36 games is 180. Should the bowler's score be disqualified?</p> <p>Yes. In accordance with Rule 319e, it is the bowler's responsibility to adjust their entering average if their tournament average for 21 or more games exceeds their entering average by 15 or more pins. The bowler's score is disqualified from the prize list and all other positions moved up one spot.</p>
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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 nine (9) games, unless tournament rules state another number.
2. All USBC equipment and certification specifications apply to the bowling centers in which 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.

A tournament may have a rule allowing game/frames to be bowled on different 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, unless the tournament rules allow game/frames to be bowled on different lanes.

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. A tournament official may authorize participants on the pair to practice prior to resuming the game/series.

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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 322b.

322/1	<p>A team had a bowler who failed to show up and a substitute was not available. Can they use the bowler's average minus 10 pins?</p> <p>In adult tournaments the team would receive a zero for the missing player. In USBC youth tournaments, an absentee score must be accepted for a prepaid four- or five-player team unless otherwise stated in the tournament rules. Only one absentee score per team may be used and the score will be the absent member's entering average less 10 pins plus handicap.</p>
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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. Substitution 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.

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:** Within 72 hours of the infraction, or prior to tournament prizes being paid, whichever occurs first.
 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:** Within 10 days of notification of tournament management's decision.
 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 329.

329/1	<p>What is the deadline to file a protest?</p> <p>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 within 72 hours of the infraction or prior to the payment of tournament prizes, whichever occurs first.</p> <p>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.</p>
329/2	<p>What happens when a bowler is disqualified from the tournament for a rule infraction?</p> <p>When a violation occurs that requires disqualification of an individual or team, the following procedure should be followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The individual(s) or team captain should be notified in writing of the disqualification.• The letter should state the reason(s) for disqualification.• The letter should inform the individual that they have the right to appeal in writing to USBC. <p>Payment of prizes affected must be withheld until USBC has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notified the tournament that a timely appeal has not been filed; or• Resolved a timely appeal that was filed.

Chapter 7: Equipment Specifications and Certifications CAQ's

NOTE: The following are Commonly Asked Questions explaining 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.

Where does someone find out what products are approved for use during competition?

Any bowling ball, accessory or cleaner used in certified USBC competition must be approved and located on the list on the Equipment Specifications page on BOWL.com. Additionally, for identification purposes, bowling balls must have the manufacturer's name, product name and the serial number

Can I use a ball with a crack in it?

If a crack is located within your track area, it is not permitted for use during USBC competition. A crack is defined as a narrow opening or crack of considerable length and depth usually occurring from some breaking or parting.

I use rosin or powder in my gripping holes. Do I need to wipe my ball after every use?

Yes. Rosin and powder are considered foreign substances and must be wiped off completely before making a delivery. In addition, these substances may be only used as a gripping aid and may not be placed anywhere else on the ball surface.

Do I have to use all gripping holes during the delivery of the ball?

If a thumb hole is not being used during a delivery and a weight/balance hole is present, a bowler must demonstrate that all gripping holes can be used for gripping purposes simultaneously. The ball must be within specification as the ball rests in the bowlers hand but all holes do not need to be used for gripping purposes during a delivery.

Do lanes have to be dressed prior to every league?

No. Every bowling center is inspected annually for a compliant lane condition. USBC specifications dictate that when the lanes are dressed, a minimum of three units from edge board to edge board be used for the length of the pattern. As long as this is done when the lanes are initially dressed, they are compliant.

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.)

It is discovered that my bowling ball is out of specification while bowling league or just after. What happens?

If it is found that the bowler had prior knowledge, a protest can be filed within the time constraints of Rule 119. All games would be subject to forfeiture within the previous 15 days. If the bowler had no prior knowledge the games would not be subject to forfeiture but the ball would not be able to be used until the issue was resolved.

Our lanes didn't appear to be dressed the same as normal. This time the center put down a (sport shot, or the machine malfunctioned) are our scores still valid or can they be null and voided?

The scores are valid and they may not be null and voided. As long as the minimum specifications are met, the condition is compliant and the scores stand as bowled.

On my first delivery, I don't use my thumb hole, I also have a balance hole. Is this acceptable?

Yes, a bowler must only be able to reasonably demonstrate that all gripping holes can be used for gripping purposes simultaneously. As long as the ball is in specification as the ball rests in the bowlers hand it is acceptable.

Chapter 8: Bonding, Burglary and Holdup Insurance

Introduction

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 center's 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 Act of 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Dishonest Act of Officer.

Is it really that important to list our total prize fund on the membership application if it exceeds \$10,000?

Yes, unless the total prize fund amount has been listed, the maximum amount of league prize money covered under the USBC bonding policy will be \$10,000.

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 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 center's 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Mysterious Disappearance.

The league treasurer collected the envelopes and had them on the table. The treasurer went to bowl and when he got back the envelopes were gone. Can a bond claim be filed for the loss of money?

No. The bonding policy does not cover losses due to mysterious disappearances 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.

Commonly Asked Questions – Convicted Felon.

We have recently found out that our treasurer was convicted of a felony 20 years ago. Can this individual continue as a treasurer in our league?

No, the bond policy does not extend coverage to any individual who has been convicted of a felony.