

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 122.) (Suggested 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.

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

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

100a/2 Can 16-year-olds bowl in a USBC adult league?

Yes, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements set by the league. In addition, if they are an unmarried high school student 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 form waiving his/her rights to any prize in violation of Rule 400. A copy of the Parental Consent Form and USBC Singles Competition Prize Waiver is available on the Rules section of BOWL.com.



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 their 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.

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

Although USBC prefers that other adults participating in the league refrain from smoking or drinking, only the 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.

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.)

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 Rules 102e and 102f.
3. The league manager is considered an officer of the league and is bonded.
4. The manager has supervisory control of the technical operation of the league consistent with USBC rules, to include:
 - a. Creation and distribution of the league rules and schedule prior to the start of the season.
 - b. Enforcement of league and USBC rules.
 - c. Creation and distribution of the prize list by the fifth week of competition.
 - d. Decisions on all disputes, complaints or protests involving any USBC or league rules.
 - e. Decisions on the operation of the league when not in conflict with the league and/or USBC rules.

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

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

100k. Match Point

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

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

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



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

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

100L. Mail-o-Graphic

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

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

Rule 101 - Membership Fee Payment Requirements

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

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

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

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

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



Rule 102 - League Officers

102a. Officers

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

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

1. The league 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, treasurer or secretary-treasurer; or vice president and treasurer or secretary-treasurer of the same league or cosign for withdrawals from a league account.
6. Either league members or non-league members may hold league office. When the league requires an officer to be a league member, the board of directors shall decide whether the officer will be allowed to complete the term of office if no longer a league member.

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

102b. Vacancies in Office

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

102c. Duties of the President

The president/league supervisor shall perform the following duties:

1. Preside at all league meetings.
2. Enforce all rules and regulations of the league.
3. Arrange to have an account set up in a recognized banking institution in the name of the league with the 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* on BOWL.com.)
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 work sheet 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 finances.

102d. Duties of the Vice President

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

102e. Duties of the Secretary

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

1. Have every participant complete a membership card application and collect appropriate membership dues.
2. Forward the annual membership dues with completed league application and membership card applications to the local association manager(s) within 30 days after the league begins to bowl. Membership card applications and applicable fees for additional members shall also be forwarded to the local association manager(s) within 30 days of receipt.
3. Keep minutes of all league meetings, handle all league correspondence and notify the members or team captains of all league meetings.
4. Have a current standing sheet available for the members to see at each league session. The standing sheet shall contain the average, number of games and total pins for each member, and any scores eligible for special prizes the league issues. (For more information on completing standing sheets, see the *League Operations Handbook* on BOWL.com.)
5. Be responsible for a record of the scores bowled by all team members and substitutes, and report scores that are eligible for USBC, state and local association awards.
 - a. Submit a completed award application within 20 days.
 - b. Notify the local association manager or authorized representative within 48 hours of scores that are eligible for USBC honor score recognition.
6. Give each member of the board a copy of the league rules and prize list and see that the league schedule is either posted in the bowling center or given to each team captain.



7. Give a copy of the final standing sheet to the league treasurer so the awards can be distributed.
8. Turn over to the newly-elected officer all league records, such as minutes of meetings, copies of rules and prize lists, league property, etc.
9. Furnish a list of individual averages to the local association manager(s), when requested. The list must show the full names and ID numbers of all bowlers who competed in the league, the number of games bowled, total pinfall and average for each bowler.
10. On request of the local association or USBC, provide a list of names and addresses of the league officers; and the names of captains and members in the league.
11. Notify league members of all local association meetings and any proposed changes in local association dues.

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

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

102f. Duties of the Treasurer

The treasurer shall perform the following duties:

1. Establish a bank account in the name of the league with the signatures of at least two officers needed for withdrawals. 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* on BOWL.com)



102g. Duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms

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

102h. Duties of the League Supervisor (Youth Leagues Only)

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

1. The league president duties. In youth leagues that do have a board, the president will assist the league supervisor.
2. Granting prebows 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* on BOWL.com.)

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* on BOWL.com.)

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.

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

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

103b. Duties

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

1. Making decisions on all matters arising in the league.
2. Deciding all protests involving USBC or league rules. The decision of the league 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.

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

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

Forfeited: If a rule was violated.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Rule 104 – Teams

104a. 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 score books 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.

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

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

104a/2 Can a captain remove a member of the team during the season?

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's board.

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.



104b. Franchise and Roster

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

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

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

104c. Replacement During Season

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

104d. Uneven Number

When a league has an uneven number of teams, the team scheduled against the nonexistent team cannot be credited with the points by forfeit. The Earn the Points system is used unless the league 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.

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

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

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

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

Option 1: The league allows the new team to make up the games unopposed and match the



scores with teams that previously bowled what was considered a nonexistent team.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rule 105 – Absentee and Vacancy Scores

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.

105/1 If an individual is absent the first night of bowling, is an absentee or vacancy score used?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Rule 106 - League Game/Series

106a. Series - How Bowled

Two lanes immediately adjoining each other shall be used in each game of league play. The first game of a series shall start on the lane where the team is scheduled with each succeeding game starting on the lane where the team finished its previous game. At the option of the league, each game 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 Rules 106a and 106b do not apply.

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

106d. Bowling Out

Unless the league rules state otherwise:

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

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



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

Rule 107 – Team Composition

107a. Competition Limited to One Team

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

107d. Pacers

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

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

Rule 108 - Failure to Complete Game

108a. With Cause

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

108b. Without Cause

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

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

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

108c. Missed Frames

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

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

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

Rule 109 - Lineup

109a. Legal Lineup

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

1. A legal lineup is:
 - a. Three or more eligible players in five-player team leagues, unless league rules state 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.

109a/1 If a league does not adopt a rule designating the number of regular members for a legal lineup, is it acceptable to have just one regular member plus substitutes?
Substitutes are considered eligible players for a minimum legal lineup unless the league adopts a rule requiring a specific number of regular members to be present. If such a rule is not adopted, any number of substitutes could count toward a legal lineup.

109a/2 Can a league adopt a rule stating a legal lineup must be present at the start of a game or at a designated time?
A team has until the completion of the first frame, or a select frame other than the first, to field a legal lineup. Therefore, it is not permissible to require a team to have a legal lineup present at the start of a game or at a designated time.

109a/3 When a league allows for individual prebowls, do the scores count toward the legal lineup requirement?
Yes the scores count towards the legal lineup requirement unless the league rules require a legal lineup present at the regular league session.

109b. Lack of Legal Lineup

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

109c. Tardy Players

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

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

109c/1 If a legal lineup is not present by the end of the first frame but a tardy player arrives before the designated tardy player frame, can the late bowler make up missed frames to avoid a team forfeit?
No, a league rule setting a specific frame for tardy players is separate from the legal lineup rule. First, a team must have enough eligible players present for a legal lineup. Tardy players



could enter the game if they arrived before completion of the designated tardy frame, but the game would still be forfeited.

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

Rule 110 - Forfeits

110a. League Fee Arreages

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 arreages.

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

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

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

110b. Refusal to Bowl

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

110c. Procedure for Bowling

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

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

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



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

110c/1 What is a known forfeit?

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

110c/2 What is an unknown forfeit?

The team bowls unaware that a forfeit will be declared. For example, it was found out immediately after bowling the opposing team used an ineligible player. The forfeiture would have to be acted upon within the specified timelines of Rule 119. The forfeiting team does not receive any points and the non-forfeiting team is automatically credited with all of the points.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Rule 111 - Prebowl/Postponements

111a. Types

Types of 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.

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.

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

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

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

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

Yes, weather conditions which prevent a team from fielding a legal lineup are classified as emergencies. Leagues must grant postponements for emergencies when a team fails to appear



for its scheduled match due to reasons beyond its control. Adverse weather conditions are sufficient reason to grant a postponement without advance notice.

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

111c. Request

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

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

A forfeit is issued. However, the forfeiting team has up to 15 days to protest the forfeiture and request an emergency postponement according to Rule 119. If the scheduled games are within the final two weeks of the schedule, the team must protest and request an emergency postponement within 72 hours of the final date of that schedule.

111d. Granting

Prebowl/Postponement requests are reviewed and decided by:

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

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

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

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

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

111e. Procedure

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

1. When teams are bowling in direct opposition, the captains of the teams involved shall agree to a date for bowling the prebowl/postponed match. If within one week from the date originally scheduled, the captains cannot agree on a date, the league secretary shall set a date and notify both team captains of the date and time. This notification should be given at least three days prior to the date.



2. The league secretary or designated representative shall notify the bowling center of the change in schedule and arrange to have a pair of lanes available.
3. Games must be bowled under the same regulations and rules governing league play.
4. Handicap is figured as of the date/time the games are bowled. All games bowled prior to the prebowed or postponed match shall be included in determining handicap.
5. Prebowed or postponed games shall be included in the average record as of the date bowled.
6. Games can be made up on any certified pair of lanes.
7. Scores qualify for league awards, unless otherwise provided by league rule.
8. Unopposed pre or post bowled scores will be eligible for USBC Awards except High Score Awards as designated in Rules 51a, 51b, 51c, 51d, 52a and 52c.

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

No. 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.

If the league adopted a rule requiring notification and the opposing team was not notified, the league board would have the following options:

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

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

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

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

111e/4 We had an individual/team prebowl because they had to work. Later they found out that they would not have to work on that date so they appeared at the lanes to bowl. Can the league secretary throw out their scores and allow them to bowl?

No. When an individual or team receives permission from the league and completes their prebowl, they have exhausted their eligibility for that league session. The league 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.

111e/5 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?

If the team prebowed and the league session was subsequently cancelled, USBC recommends the board meet and choose one of the following options:

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.

Option 2. The league board null and voids the prebowed scores and the team is allowed to bowl the rescheduled league session.

111f. Time Limit for Bowling

Prebowed/postponed games must be bowled as follows:

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

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

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

Rule 112 - Tie Game

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

Rule 113 - Playoffs/Special Contests

113a. Definition

A playoff is a separate competition conducted to determine league champions and/or break ties in the league standings. 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, segment or team average cannot break position standing ties at the conclusion of the season, or at the end of any segment of a split season schedule.



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

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

113b. Procedures

A playoff may not consist of less than one 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 10th 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.

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:

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

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

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



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

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

113c. Special Contests

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

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

Rule 114 - Withdrawals/Resignations

114a. Procedure for Withdrawing

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

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

114b. Procedure for Returning After Withdrawing

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

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

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

Rule 115 - Disciplinary Procedures

115a. Dismissal of a League Officer or Player

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

1. A player may be dismissed from the league or an officer removed from league office only for any of the following reasons:



- a. Conduct derogatory to the best interest of the league.
- b. Any deliberate action which can be proven to be detrimental to the best interest of the team.
- c. Violation of any USBC or league rule.

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

2. If written charges are filed, the following procedures must be followed:
 - a. Within one week after receipt of the written complaint, the league president should schedule a meeting of the league 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.

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.

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

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

115c. Limited Removals (Youth Leagues)

The following applies to youth leagues only:

1. The removal processes only applies to leagues under the supervision of the league supervisor or official and does not restrict the member from participation in other USBC leagues or tournaments.



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

Rule 116 - Scores

116a. Scoring Process

In league play:

1. Scores must be recorded on a score sheet 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 score sheet is the official record, and the team score books must agree with the score sheet 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.

116b. Scores Lost

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

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

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

If the teams in question are able to agree, the scores could be reconstructed and, if necessary, the games continued from the point of interruption. If the official record is mutilated, lost, defaced, or the captains cannot agree on the scores, USBC holds games in question should be rebowled.



Rule 117 - Prizes

117a. Prize List

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

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

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

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

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

117b. Qualification

The following procedure applies to prize distribution:

1. Team: Team prizes shall be distributed according to verbal or written agreements.
 - a. If there is a dispute on the division of team prizes, it shall be decided by the board of directors.
 - b. No team can win more than one prize in any group of prizes, unless otherwise provided by league rule.
2. Individual: To qualify for individual league prizes, a player must bowl the required number of games.
 - a. The following provisions also apply, unless otherwise provided by league rules.
 - 1) A member shall have bowled at least two-thirds of the games of the league schedule.
 - 2) If a substitute later becomes a regular member, the games bowled as a substitute shall be included in the required number of games. (This does not apply to the league high average award.)
 - 3) Scores bowled as a substitute shall not qualify for individual league prizes.
 - 4) No individual can win more than one prize in any group of prizes.
 - b. If a bowler has competed in two-thirds of the league schedule or the number of required games, and cannot be a member at the end of the season because of physical disability or other reasons beyond his/her control, the board of directors shall decide his/her eligibility for individual prizes.
 - c. A member who withdraws during the season without proper notice and sufficient cause or is dismissed or suspended, shall forfeit any money paid into the league, unless the league board determines otherwise.



3. Handicap Leagues: All special prizes for team and/or individual high series or high game shall be awarded on a handicap basis, unless otherwise adopted by the league.

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

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

Rule 118 - Averages

118a. How Determined

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

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

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

118b. How Established

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

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

Youth leagues:

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



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

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

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

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

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

118b/3 A bowler is using the two-handed approach styles with his dominate hand being his right. Can he pick up his ten pins using only his right hand?

Yes, since both deliveries are with the same dominant hand, the bowler did not change his delivery and therefore, is not in violation of any USBC rules.

118b/4 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?

No, as long as all deliveries are made with the right hand, this would not be a violation of Rule 118b.

118c. League Entering Average

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

NOTE: The following are options for entering averages:

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



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

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

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

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

118d. League Entering Average Cap

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

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

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

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

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

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



118e. Establish New Average due to Change in Delivery

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

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

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

Rule 119 - Protest/Appeal Procedures

The league 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.



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.

Rule 120 – Position Matches

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

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

120/1 If teams bowl against the wrong opponents during the position round or regular schedule, can the games be bowled over, or can the scores be compared with the proper opponents?

USBC holds the games stand as bowled and are entered in the record for games won or lost as well as for individual averages. The league continues with the regular schedule after discovering the error.

Comparing scores with the proper opponents changes the competitive circumstances under which the match was bowled.

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

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

120/3 How are lanes assigned for position matches?

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

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

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

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



Rule 121 - League Fees

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

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

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

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

Rule 122 - Meetings

League meetings are conducted under the following requirements:

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

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

(For more information on conducting meetings, see the *League Operations Handbook* on BOWL.com.)

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

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

