

# Chapter 5: Sport Bowling

The rules included in this chapter are unique to Sport Bowling, an optional upgrade to standard membership. Sport Bowling is recognized as the highest level of competitive bowling and takes place on more challenging lane patterns designed to emphasize a bowler's consistency and ability to deal with changing lane conditions. To be officially recognized, a USBC Sport Bowling league or tournament must be registered on the Sport Bowling section of BOWL.com prior to the start of competition.

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

For more information and frequently asked questions, see [BOWL.com/sportbowling](http://BOWL.com/sportbowling).

## Rule 200 - Definition

### 200a. League

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

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

### 200b. Tournament

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

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

## Rule 201 - Membership

All bowlers participating in USBC Sport Bowling leagues must pay or provide proof of payment of the Sport Bowling membership dues (\$15 for adults; \$10 for youth) in addition to all required standard USBC membership dues. Unless required by tournament rule, participants in Sport Bowling tournaments are not required to be Sport Bowling members.

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

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



## Rule 202 - Average Adjustment

### 202a. Scale

The scale below is used to adjust Sport Bowling averages upward, as required, for use in standard competition.

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

### 202b. Sport to Standard League

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

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



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

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

### **202c. Standard to Sport League**

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

### **202d. Sport to Standard Tournament**

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

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

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

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

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

### **202e. Standard to Sport Tournament**

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

## **Rule 203 - Lane Dressing/Lane Dressing Inspections**

Each league or tournament is responsible for arranging lane dressing inspections as required by USBC for Sport Bowling leagues and tournaments. Games bowled on conditions not properly inspected or not complying with Sport Bowling lane dressing requirements, are not eligible for Sport Bowling awards and shall

be issued standard USBC awards. (See the *Sport Bowling Technical Manual* in the Sport Bowling section of BOWL.com for details.)

## Rule 204 - Awards

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

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

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

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

A Sport Bowling member is eligible for one of each of the above awards per season except for the 300 game. (Members receive the Sport Bowling 300 game "Add a Stone" ring for their first Sport 300 game. Diamonds for the ring are issued for each successive 300 Sport game). Standard USBC awards will be issued for all accomplishments not covered above. Scores bowled on non-complying Sport Bowling conditions will be issued standard USBC awards.

### **Sport National High Average\***

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

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

## Rule 205 - Equipment Restrictions

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



## Rule 206 – Sport Certified Centers

### 206a. Requirements to Host Sport Bowling

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

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

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

### 206b. Retention of Sport Center Certificates

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

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

If a league submits graphs/tapes and are noncompliant:

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

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

## Rule 207 - Submission of Scores/Prize Winnings

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

