

# BRITISH TENPIN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

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**League Rules**  
**November 2020**

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## League Rules

### Rule 100 – Leagues

#### 100a. Qualifications

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

1. All leagues must meet the following requirements:
  - a. Apply for certification from BTBA Head Office
  - b. Consist of four or more teams with the playing strength of one or more players per team as determined by league rule.
  - c. Bowl in accordance with a prearranged schedule based on the number of teams in the league.
  - d. Adopt rules and prize list (if any). (See Rule 117a and Rule 122.)
  - e. All players seeking membership must be qualified under the bylaws of BTBA.
  - f. Provide for the designation of a team champion by the games bowled in scheduled competition.
  - g. Govern themselves by BTBA rules. Other rules may be added, but must not conflict with BTBA 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 42 days counting the first day of competition.
4. The league will be eligible for all membership services while temporarily certified provided the lanes on which it bowls are certified and its league application and membership fees are submitted on or before the end of the grace period.

#### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 100a.

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

BTBA 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 management.

##### **100a/2 Can a league limit participation to men only or women only?**

Leagues determine their own eligibility requirements. There are leagues that are male only, female only, exclusive to postal workers, firefighters, police, union, church, etc. Any league intending to limit participation to specific individuals, the league should specify this requirement in the rules and in the title.

##### **100a/3 How is the length of the league schedule determined?**

The length of the schedule and other commercial aspects of the game (such as price of bowling, time, number of teams, etc.) are matters to be negotiated by the league and the proprietor. Because a proprietor has specific rights as an independent business person, BTBA has no jurisdiction over these commercial aspects, but does have a vital concern on how leagues are conducted. BTBA rules enable a league to decide on the length of the league schedule based on any agreement with the proprietor. It is important to come to an agreement on these matters before the season begins. When there is no written contract between the league and the proprietor, verbal commitments are just as binding. We urge all BTBA leagues to honour their contracts, whether verbal or written. If questions arise about commercial matters, the president, secretary or committee appointed by the president should meet with the proprietor to discuss the matter.



### **100a/4 May a league adopt a rule prohibiting league members from coming early to practice on the lanes they are scheduled to bowl on in league play?**

BTBA does not have a rule prohibiting practice games before league play. Because the league has no jurisdiction until play has commenced, this type of rule may be an infringement on the proprietor's rights as an independent businessperson. Therefore, if the league wanted to adopt a rule, the proprietor would have to be consulted first and agree to this type of restriction.

### **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. Junior**

A junior league is one in which all participants hold BTBA Junior membership. All junior leagues must govern themselves by BTBA league rules.

1. Leagues shall be comprised of males and females, unless otherwise provided by league rule.
2. Leagues are organized by age division or ability as stated in the league rules.
3. The league shall be under the supervision of an adult league official/supervisor who shall operate the junior league in cooperation with the bowling centre management and the league board of directors, if applicable. (See Rule 103a.)

### **100d. Traveling**

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

1. In traveling leagues bowling in more than local area, the league application shall be filed through the association decided upon by:
  - a. **Adult leagues:** A majority vote of the team captains.
  - b. **Junior leagues:** The league supervisor.
2. Adult 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 area association.
3. Final averages shall be submitted to the association through which the league is affiliated.
4. A traveling league that includes international competition and bowls a portion of its schedule in certified centres as well as centres outside the jurisdiction of BTBA shall be eligible to apply for certification subject to the following:
  - a. Govern themselves by all BTBA general playing and league rules.
  - b. High score award and average recognition shall be provided for scores bowled in BTBA certified centres.
  - c. Only players whose home lanes are within BTBA jurisdiction would be required to obtain BTBA membership.

### **100e. Closed (Adult leagues only)**

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. BTBA league rules shall apply to all BTBA closed leagues, in addition to the following:

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

### **100f. 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. BTBA league rules shall apply to all BTBA handicap leagues, in addition to the following:

1. The percentage shall be 100 percent, unless otherwise provided by league rule.



## League Rules

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 from the average of each bowler as provided by league rule.
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, numbers are to rounded down to whole numbers.

### **Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 100f.**

#### **100f/1 What is a good handicap percentage for a league with members who have a wide range of averages?**

One hundred percent of the difference between a bowler's average and a base higher than any average within the league is a good percentage to balance the disparity in averages. One hundred percent handicap basically makes the competition a "pins over average" competition, because if the two teams bowl average they will be tied.

#### **100f/2 What is the most effective system of handicapping?**

The individual method is most effective. A scratch figure should be set higher than any bowler's average in the league and all bowlers are handicapped from that figure.

For example, if the highest individual average is 222, the base figure for handicapping could be set at 230 allowing for average improvement, and 100 percent of 230 could be adopted by the league. The players' individual handicaps are added together for the team handicap. With this method, each bowler as well as each team has the benefit of handicap. When the league awards individuals for high handicap game and high handicap series, it is simple for the secretary to determine which league member is in contention because individual handicap is already included.

#### **100f/3 What handicapping system does BTBA not recommend using?**

Some leagues handicap the difference between the opposing teams' averages. This method is not recommended because not all teams receive handicap each session and it poses problems if the league wishes to provide its members with individual awards. In leagues using this type of handicap method, the league secretary must make many additional calculations to determine individual handicaps for award purposes.

#### **100f/4 Some of the higher-average teams want us to adopt a rule to limit handicap. Can we set a limit of a 60-pin handicap for any one bowler?**

According to Rule 100f, Item 4, to limit handicap, a league must adopt its own rule. However, BTBA advises against leagues adopting rules to limit handicap. Although higher average teams believe they cannot be competitive each week while giving the full handicap allowance, they should keep in mind, unless the league is using at least 100 percent handicap, the higher-average team still has the advantage.

For example, at 85 percent handicap, the higher-average team has a 15-percent advantage. With unlimited handicap, the higher-average teams may be challenged, but our experience indicates more competitive bowling is stimulating to all teams in the league.

#### **100f/5 Must all players in a league be handicapped equally?**

No, the league may adopt a separate handicap for males and females or, in an adult/junior league, may choose to adopt a separate handicap for the adults and juniors. When a league chooses to adopt separate handicaps, its rules must specify how the handicap will be applied to all participants.



### 100g. Senior

A senior league is composed of participants who are 50 years of age or over. BTBA league rules shall apply to all BTBA senior leagues, in addition to the following:

1. Senior league bowlers are eligible for all BTBA 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 50 to compete in the league.

### 100h. Summer

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

1. Members who have a valid current season membership are eligible to bowl in BTBA 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.
- 3.

### 100i. 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 BTBA 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 BTBA member may be a league manager and is responsible for the duties of secretary and treasurer as described in Rule 102e and Rule 102f.
3. The league manager is considered an officer of the league and is bonded.
4. The manager has supervisory control of the technical operation of the league consistent with BTBA 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 BTBA 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 BTBA or league rules.
  - e. Decisions on the operation of the league when not in conflict with the league and/or BTBA rules.

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

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



## 100j. 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 line-up first.
2. No change may be made in the order of players in the line-up during a series. A substitute must take the replaced bowler's position in the line-up.
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 line-up. However, the line-up of the team that lost its player must be changed if necessary, to comply with the provision of Item 4 above for any subsequent game(s) in the series.

### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 100k.

**100j/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 line-up by placing the bowler in a position where the player would have bowled if present for the first game?**

No, the line-up 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 line-up during a series, unless league rules state differently.

**100j/2 If a bowler scheduled against an absent player does not win the point, where does the point go?**

The point is awarded to the absent bowler unless the league rules state otherwise. (See Rule 104d for information regarding a team bowling a non-existent team.)

**100j/3 If a bowler scheduled against a vacancy does not win the point, where does the point go?**

The point goes to the opposing team. (See Rule 104d for information regarding a team bowling a non-existent team.)

## 100k. 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 BTBA 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. BTBA will certify such leagues provided:
  - a. All BTBA equipment specifications apply.
  - b. All rules for BTBA leagues shall apply insofar as applicable.
  - c. Application must designate the league as a mail-o-graphic league.
4. Adults 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 BTBA national awards or average recognition.



## Rule 101 – Membership Fee Payment Requirements

To be eligible to bowl in a BTBA 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 BTBA dues and the required association membership fees in effect or the current season before:
  1. **Adult membership:** Completion of the bowler's first series.
  2. **Junior membership:** The bowler's third session of competition.

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

## Rule 102 – League Officers

### 102a. Officers

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 BTBA.
4. Only the offices of secretary and treasurer may be combined.
5. Two members of an immediate family cannot serve as president and treasurer or secretary treasurer; or vice president and treasurer or secretary-treasurer of the same league or co-sign for withdrawals from a league account.
6. Either league members or non-league members may hold league office. When the league requires an officer to be a league member, the board of directors shall decide whether the officer will be allowed to complete the term of office if no longer a league member.

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

### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 102a.

#### **102a/1 I was at our league's organizational meeting and the league elected the treasurer's husband as their president. Is this legal?**

No, two immediate family members cannot hold the offices of president or vice president and secretary-treasurer or treasurer in the same league. Therefore, one of these officers must resign and the league board (officers and team captains) proceeds in voting in a new officer.

#### **102a/2 How should a league handle complaints regarding problems occurring within the bowling centre?**

When the league has concerns regarding lanes, equipment, loud music, etc., the league officers, or a committee appointed by the league president, may discuss the problem with centre management in an effort to resolve the matter.

#### **102a/3 Who is considered immediate family? What if they are no longer in the same household?**

Members of an immediate family include mothers, daughters, sisters, wives, husbands, sons, brothers, fathers, stepsisters, stepbrothers, stepmothers, stepfathers and in-laws. Same gender spouses are considered immediate family. Two members of an immediate family cannot serve as president or vice-president and secretary-treasurer or treasurer of the same league or co-sign for withdrawals from a league account, even if they do not reside in the same household.





### 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
5. Arrange to have the prize committee submit one or more prize lists for consideration by the fifth week. (See Rule 117a.)
6. Personally verify the league's bank balance monthly.

In junior 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 BTBA Head Office for possible action under the bonding insurance policy.

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

- a. **Audit:** Perform at least one audit no earlier than one month prior to distribution of prize fund
- b. **Receipts:** Verify the amount and date of deposits.
- c. **Disbursements:** Review cancelled checks and supporting documents to determine that expenditures are proper.

All checks must bear the signatures of two authorized co-signers. Checks should not be made out to cash. The cheque book should be reviewed to verify entries made and to reconcile the appropriate bank statements.

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

#### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 102c.

**102c/1 Our league president and treasurer are best friends. Due to their relationship, is the president still required to verify the league's bank balance on a monthly basis?** Yes, the friendship or relationship does not excuse the president from his/her responsibility of personally verifying the league account each month. Failure to verify this information monthly could affect the league's bonding coverage.

**102c/2 As president, I receive our league account bank statement each month and verify the league's bank balance. Do I have to do anything else?**

Yes, you must also look at the treasurer's records to determine if all funds paid are accounted for. For example, some individuals may be behind in fees, while others may have paid for the entire season. The amount on deposit must be the amount received by the league. Also, you need to appoint an audit committee. The audit committee should check the treasurer's records at specified times during the season to verify that incomes, expenditures, balances and records have been accurately kept.

**102c/3 Who has the right to request an audit?**

Any member of the league has the right to request an audit. The request should be done in writing to the league president along with information to support or justify the audit.

**102c/4 Can a league conduct more than one audit?**

Yes, the minimum requirement for audits is one audit must be completed no earlier than one month prior to the end of the league schedule. A league may conduct an earlier audit(s) but still must have the end of season audit within the last month of the league schedule.



## 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 BTBA Head Office within 42 days after the league begins to bowl. Membership card applications and applicable fees for additional members shall also be forwarded to BTBA Head Office within 30 days of receipt.
3. Keep minutes of all league meetings, handle all league correspondence and notify the members or team captains of all league meetings.
4. Have a current standing sheet available for the members to see at each league session. The standing sheet shall contain the average, number of games and total pins for each member, and any scores eligible for special prizes the league issues.
5. Be responsible for a record of the scores bowled by all team members and substitutes, and report scores that are eligible for BTBA, awards.
  - a. Submit a completed award application within 20 days.
  - b. Notify the BTBA Head Office within 48 hours of scores that are eligible for BTBA honour score recognition.
6. Give each member of the board a copy of the league rules and prize list and see that the leagues schedule is either posted in the bowling centre 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 Area association 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 BTBA, 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

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

### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 102e.

#### 102e/1 Who has the right to see the league records?

Although the secretary and treasurer are responsible for maintaining an accurate and complete account of scores and finances, the records are league property. Therefore, all league members have the right to see the records. However, so as not to disrupt bowling, arrangements should be made to view the records either before or after bowling, or at some other time agreeable to the officer(s).

#### 102e/2 Our bowling league utilizes the centre's secretarial service. Do we still need to elect a league secretary?

Yes, Rule 102a requires each league to elect a secretary. Since the league utilizes the centre's secretarial service, the league secretary should work together with the bowling centre and is responsible for ensuring that all duties listed under Rule 102e are being properly fulfilled.

#### 102e/3 Can a proprietor require our league to use and pay for the secretarial services provided by the centre?

Yes. This and other proprietor provided services are issues negotiated between the league and the centre. Although a proprietor can provide the service, it is up to the board of directors to determine if the league will utilize it. However, whether the league uses the service or not, the proprietor may still require payment. In cases where the league utilizes a secretarial service provided by the bowling centre, the league is still required to appoint a secretary and treasurer. These officials are required to ensure that all duties as specified in Rule 102e and Rule 102f are fulfilled.



### 102e/4 How long must league records be maintained?

BTBA does not have any rule regarding how long the secretary's records (i.e., minutes, prize lists, copies of recaps and standings sheets, league rules, etc.) should be kept. This is an issue to be determined by each league. Recap sheets can be destroyed after the season has been completed and all records have been finalized. However, Rule 102e, Item 8, requires this information to be turned over to the newly elected officer when there is a change in league officers.

However, it should be noted that: Treasurer's records, Rule 102f, Item 7, requires all financial records, whether in the possession of the former officer or newly elected officer, be retained for at least one year following the completion of the schedule.

### 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 and officer.
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. BTBA 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, officer 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 junior leagues that do have a board, the treasurer shall assist the league official in the duties of the treasurer.

**NOTE:** *In leagues using in-house banking services, the elected treasurer remains responsible for all the duties specified in Rule 102f. The treasurer must be eligible under the bonding requirements.*

### 102g. Duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms

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

## Rule 103 – Board of Directors

### 103a. Management

The board of directors shall consist of the officers and team captains. In junior 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.
- 4.



## Commonly Asked Question – Rule 103a.

**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 shall be responsible for:

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

**NOTE:** *When a team and/or individual is found to be ineligible under league or BTBA 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 re-bowled.*

## Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 103b.

**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 by majority vote declare game(s):

- a. **Forfeited:** If a rule was violated.
- b. **Null and void and re-bowled:** 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 re-bowled.
- c. **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 BTBA 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 line-up changes may be made.

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

**103b/3 What if fees are never paid and the prize fund is short? What course of action can the league follow?**

This would be a matter for referral to the board under Rule 103b. Generally, when a shortage occurs because a team member did not pay fees, the shortage is deducted from the individual's share of the team prize money at the end of the season. If the shorted amount is excessive and not covered by the individual's prize money, the loss could be prorated and a small amount would be taken from the prize money of each team in the league or the loss could be taken from the team's prize money. In either case, the league has the option to file charges against the member under Rule 115b.



**103b/4 At the organizational meeting there was discussion and a vote taken regarding an adoption of a rule, but the rule did not appear in the printed rules. What can be done to correct this?**

It is not unusual for a league to adopt a rule and then have the rule inadvertently omitted when the rules are prepared for distribution. Under these circumstances, it is permissible for the board to meet to review the organizational meeting minutes in accordance with Rule 103b. The board members can also be asked to ratify what happened at the organizational meeting by majority vote.

If a majority of the board determines the rule was actually discussed and voted on at the organizational meeting, and it was inadvertently omitted when the rules were typed, the rule is binding and added to the existing rules. In this situation, the league is not adding, deleting or changing the existing rules, only clarifying what is adopted, so written consent from every team captain is not needed.

## 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 BTBA.
2. Collect BTBA, 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 line-up in the computer and/or on the recap sheet before the start of each scheduled series.
5. Sign the scorebooks and have the scores verified by the opposing captain. (See Rule 116a regarding obvious errors.)
6. Be responsible for the collection of league fees from each member of the team for remittance to the league treasurer.
7. Pay each member of the team within 15 days after receiving prize money in accordance with verbal or written agreements. The league board shall decide a dispute over prize money distribution.

### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 104a.

**104a/1 May a captain change the line-up 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 line-up 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 line-up 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 protest to the league 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.

e



**104a/3 If a team member resigns or is replaced during the season, are they entitled to share the team's prize money?**

Regardless of how long bowlers compete with a team, they qualify for a prorated share of the team's prize money provided they resigned in accordance with Rule 114a or were replaced by the team captain.

Rule 104a, Item 7, requires the team captain to pay each member of the team within days after receiving prize money in accordance with any verbal or written agreements. BTBA holds that prize distribution among team members is a team matter. When a member has bowled part of the season and is unable to be a member at the end of the schedule, it is common practice for teams to prorate prize money between the member who resigned and the replacement based on the number of games each bowled and paid for during the season.

**104a/4 Can an error on a score sheet or recap sheet be corrected after the team captain has signed the recap sheet?**

Yes. Although Rule 104a, Item 5, and Rule 116a, Item 5, require the captains to sign the scorebook and verify the scores bowled, their signatures do not prevent a score from being corrected. An officer is required by Rule 116a, Item 6, to correct errors in scoring or calculation if they are found after the captains have signed the recap sheets. Both captains should be notified of the corrections. However, if a score sheet is removed from the center and an error is found, the matter needs to be referred to the board for decision.

**104a/5 Is a substitute (designated or roving) listed on a team roster?**

No, only members of the team are listed on the team roster. The roster includes individuals named by the captain as a regular member, additional member, or replacement during the season.

### 104b. Franchise and Roster

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

1. Is acceptable to the majority of the full membership of the board of directors.
  2. Notifies the league secretary of his/her intention to retain the franchise on or before a date set by the league. Failure to do so will result in the franchise returning to the control of the board of directors.
- A franchise cannot be recalled during the season without sufficient cause.

#### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 104b.

**104b/1 To whom does the team spot in a league belong - the captain, team members, league or sponsor?**

Captains hold the team franchise, as provided in Rule 104b. The spot remains with the captain from season to season unless recalled by majority vote of the full league board. A franchise cannot be recalled during the season without sufficient cause. The team sponsor does not have control over the team franchise.

**104b/2 What happens to the franchise or "spot" in the league if a team captain does not want it anymore?**

Most leagues set a date and require team captains to notify the officers of their intention to return the following season. According to Rule 104b, Item 2, if a captain does not wish to retain the franchise, or does not plan to return, the franchise reverts to the control of the board. The board may offer the franchise to another team member or someone who has requested to enter a team in the league.

**104b/3 Can a captain choose not to ask the same team members back next season? Yes.**

Rule 104b states all team rosters are automatically disbanded at the end of the league schedule. A team captain is not obligated to invite the same individuals back to be team members next season.



## 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 non-existent 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:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.

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

## Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 104d.

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

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

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

BTBA recommends the league board meet and choose one of the following options:

**Option 1:** Allow the new team to make up the games unopposed and match the scores with teams that previously bowled what was considered a non-existent team.

**Option 2:** The entering team is not allowed to make up games and the position standings are From the start date of the new team

## Rule 105 – Absentee and Vacancy Scores

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

- a. Absentee or vacancy scores may be used only when a legal line-up 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. *Junior 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 BTBA Rule 118c, a score of 120 will be used. In handicap leagues, the handicap shall be based on the score of 120.

### **Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 105.**

#### **105/1 If a rostered bowler 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.





**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 centre 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.

**105/5 What is the difference between absentee and vacancy?**

As defined in Rule 105, Item e, an absentee score is used when a regular member is absent and a substitute is not available. Unless otherwise provided by league rule, the absentee score for each game shall be the member's current average less 10 pins and, in handicap leagues, the handicap is based on the member's current average.

According to Rule 105, Item d, a vacancy score is used when the team's roster is less than the playing strength of the league. The vacancy score shall be 120 unless otherwise provided by the league rules. In handicap leagues, handicap for vacancy scores is calculated using the same handicap percentage the league utilizes for its regular members unless the league rules state otherwise. For example, if the league's regular handicap is 100% of 220, vacancy scores must be calculated on the same basis unless the league rules state otherwise.

**105/6 Can a league adopt a rule stating there will be no handicap given for a vacancy score?**

Yes, the league can adopt a rule restricting handicap for a vacancy score. While BTBA recommends that the vacancy score receive the same handicap percentage the league utilizes for its regular members, Rule 105, Item d allows the league by rule to determine the percentage of handicap the vacancy score will receive.

**105/7 When it is discovered players were not eligible to bowl, can their scores be replaced by an absentee score?**

No, Rule 105, Item b states, under no circumstances may an absentee or vacancy score replace scores bowled by an ineligible player. According to Rule 103b, the league board is authorized to rule on protested games and declare them forfeited or null and void. When an ineligible player is used, games are generally forfeited. However, the board has the authority to declare the games null and void and have them re-bowled. If a complaint or protest is not filed in accordance with Rule 119, the games would stand as bowled.

## Rule 106 - League Game/Series

### 106a. Series - How Bowled

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



### 106b. Order of Bowling

Unless the league rules allow each game or frame to be bowled on a different pair of lanes, members of competing teams shall successively, and in regular order, bowl one frame on one lane, and for the next frame alternate and use the other lane until five frames are bowled on each lane of the pair.

1. No changes can be made in the order of players after the start of a game.
2. When a team bowls against another team or alone, the next frame may be started prior to completion of the previous frame, unless the league rules state otherwise.

### 106c. Interrupted Game/Series

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

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

An interrupted game and series shall be resumed from the point of interruption. When authorized, the requirements of Rule 106a and Rule 106b do not apply.

### 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. **Junior 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 BTBA 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

### Rule 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, the following shall apply:

1. 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.
2. When a team's roster is equal to or less than the playing strength of the league, a member of that team cannot substitute on another team in the same league.
3. A player on a team whose roster exceeds the playing strength of the league may bowl with other teams as substitutes provided there are no openings in their team line-up, unless the league rules state a roster member cannot bowl as a substitute on other teams.

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



### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 107a.

**107a/1 We had an individual/team pre-bowl 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 pre-bowl, they have exhausted their eligibility for that league session. The league board of directors has the authority to declare the pre-bowled scores null and void only if a rule was violated or due to mitigating circumstances. However, the change in the individual's work schedule does not fall into either of these categories, therefore, the scores would stand.

**107a/2 The league had a team pre-bowl 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 pre-bowled scores?**

If the team pre-bowled and the league session was subsequently cancelled, BTBA recommends the board meet and choose one of the following options:

**Option 1:** The pre-bowled 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 pre-bowled scores and the team is allowed to bowl the rescheduled league session.

### 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 BTBA closed leagues, or to any league which adopts its own rule to govern transfers.
2. **Junior leagues:** The league officials consent to the transfer.

### 107c. Substitutes and/or Replacements

A substitute is a bowler who replaces another who is scheduled to participate in a BTBA 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 BTBA,
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 BTBA 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. A team must be allowed to add a replacement when its roster is less than the playing strength of the league.

#### *Junior leagues:*

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



**Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 107c.**

**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 fully-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 If playing strength of the league is five players and the team roster only has five players, can a member of the roster ever bowl on another team?**

No. A bowler listed on a roster is obligated to bowl with their own team only. Under no circumstance may a bowler on a team where its roster is the same size as the playing strength of the league bowl on another team.

**107c/4 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/5 May a league adopt a rule stating no new members be allowed for the last few weeks of the season, the position round, a roll-off 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 if the team has four or fewer players on the roster. 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. This rule does not apply to absent players.

**107c/6 Can a league adopt a rule that limits each team to naming two substitutes who bowl only for a particular team during the season?**

Yes. There are two types of substitutes: designated and roving. A designated substitute generally bowls for one team as needed. A roving substitute is allowed to bowl with any team. Although BTBA recommends roving substitutes be used, league rules may be adopted for using designated substitutes, and for setting a substitute limit. However, without a league rule, a team could have any number of designated or roving substitutes.



### **107c/7 What is the difference between a roster member and a substitute?**

Roster members generally pay league fees when they bowl and receive a prorated share of the team prize money. They have the same status in the league as other regular members and are eligible for individual awards offered by the league if they bowl the required number of games. A substitute usually does not pay league fees. Some leagues require the sub to pay bowling fees, but the regular members pay the prize portion. A substitute is not eligible for individual league prizes unless the league rules state otherwise. A league may by rule designate additional roster members as substitutes.

### **107c/8 May a league adopt a rule that substitutes not be allowed?**

Yes, however it is not recommended as it can place undue hardship on a team when members are absent due to illness or other reasons beyond their control. If a league believes a team might bring in high-average bowlers as substitutes, the league may set eligibility requirements. For example, leagues may adopt a rule stating a substitute's average cannot exceed the absent member's average, or the substitute's average must be within a specified number of pins of the absent member's average.

### **107c/9 What is the difference between a regular member and an additional member of a team?**

A regular member and an additional member are interchangeable; they are members of the team. They are equal and have all rights and privileges in the league. If a membership meeting is called, all members of a team could attend and vote. When a league adopts a rule to have a specific number of regular members for a legal line-up, both regular members and additional members can be used for a legal line-up.

### **107c/10 We have a six-man roster with five bowling every week. Our sixth man only bowls when needed and does not pay the weekly fees. One of our regular five members resigned; can we use a vacancy score until we fill that spot?**

No, since the sixth man is considered a regular member of the team and not a substitute the team has a full complement of players and cannot use a vacancy score. If he/she cannot attend, then his/her absentee score would be used and, since the team has five regular bowlers, the team would be required to pay league fees for five. A vacancy score cannot be used unless the team has four or less players on the team roster.

### **107c/11 We have a seven-man roster with five bowling every week. Our additional members only bowl as needed. Our league rules require a regular bowler to have 21 games to be eligible to bowl in the position round. One of our regular five members and both additional members do not have 21 games. According to BTBA Rule 107c, Item 9, does the league have to allow us to have a full complement of players?**

No, BTBA Rule 107c, Item 9 does not apply in this instance. BTBA holds that if an individual on the team had the opportunity to bowl 21 games and did not, then the team would have to use another eligible player (substitute if it is allowed) or an absentee score.

## **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 toward team totals nor are they included in the average records.
2. Pacers are allowed, unless otherwise provided by league rule.
3. Pacers who are BTBA members are eligible for all BTBA individual awards.



## Rule 108 – Failure to Complete Game

### 108a. With Cause

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

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

#### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 108a.

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

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 line-up, is the team required to forfeit?**

No. Rule 109b does not require a team to forfeit if it loses its legal line-up 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 line-up 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 line-up 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.

#### Commonly Asked Question – Rule 108b.

**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 bowler's 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 – Line-up

### 109a. Legal Line-up

A minimum legal line-up 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 line-up 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 line-up, 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 line-up.

### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 109a.

**109a/1 If a league does not adopt a rule designating the number of regular members for a legal line-up, is it acceptable to have just one regular member plus substitutes?** Substitutes are considered eligible players for a minimum legal line-up 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 line-up.

**109a/2 Can a league adopt a rule stating a legal line-up 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 line-up. Therefore, it is not permissible to require a team to have a legal line-up present at the start of a game or at a designated time.

**109a/3 When a league allows for individual pre-bowls, do the scores count toward the legal line-up requirement?**

Yes, the scores count toward the legal line-up requirement unless the league rules require a legal line-up present at the regular league session.

**109a/4 Can a vacancy or an absentee score count toward the legal line-up?** No. If a team does not have the minimum legal line-up present by the end of the specified frame, the vacancy and absentee scores cannot be used. (See Rule 105a.)

### 109b. Lack of Legal Line-up

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



### 109c. Tardy Players

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

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

#### Commonly Asked Question – Rule 109c.

**109c/1 If a legal line-up 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 line-up rule. First, a team must have enough eligible players present for a legal line-up. 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 line-up present.

### Rule 110 – Forfeits

#### 110a. League Fee Arrears

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

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

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

#### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 110a.

**110a/1 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 cannot 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 non-payment 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.

**110a/2 Can a league adopt a rule to curtail late or non-payment of league fees?**

According to Rule 110a, a league could adopt a rule stating games will be forfeited if participant in a team's line-up are not current in their fees. With such a rule, if the members present do not submit their own fees, the games are subject to forfeiture.

However, games cannot be forfeited if fees are not paid when a member is absent or the team has a vacancy. If the absent member does not pay in full upon return, then all games the member bowls while in arrears would be subject to forfeiture if a timely protest is filed. The league board should not hesitate to enforce the rule when there is a violation and should be consistent in the application of its rules.

#### 110b. Refusal to Bowl

A team that refuses to bowl with less than a full line-up 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 BTBA awards.

**NOTE:** *When leagues include series totals in points won and a team forfeits one or more games in a series, that team shall receive a zero for the games it forfeits in deciding the winner of the series point. When a league determines position standings on a percentage basis, the percentage is calculated by dividing the number of points won by the total number of points available to the team. (The total number of points available includes points won, lost and unearned through forfeit situations.)*

### **Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 110c.**

#### **110c/1 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 line-up 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 10 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 must 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."

**110c/8 Can a league adopt a no-forfeit rule?**

No, BTBA rules provide for a forfeit as a possible penalty when rules are violated.

**110c/9 If the opposing team does not show up to bowl, does BTBA recognize High Scores bowled by the team present?**

Yes, because the games are bowled during the regularly scheduled time, BTBA will recognize High Scores.

## Rule 111 - Pre-bowl/Postponements

### 111a. Types

Types of pre-bowls 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. **Junior Leagues:** Permitted unless the league rules state otherwise.

**NOTE:** *Unopposed is bowling without your scheduled team.*

### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 111a.

**111a/1 What is bowling unopposed?**

Bowling unopposed is when one team or an individual requests and is granted permission to bowl without its scheduled opponent at a time other than the regularly scheduled league time. The team or individual with permission may bowl prior to the scheduled date (pre-bowling) or after the scheduled date (a postponement).

**111a/2 What is direct opposition?**

Direct opposition is when the two opposing teams scheduled for a specific date pre-bowl or post-bowl for that date at the same time.

### 111b. Reason

A league cannot adopt a rule that would have the effect of not permitting any pre-bowling or postponements. The league must grant a pre-bowl/postponement when the team is unable to field a legal line-up for the following reasons:

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



**Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 111b.**

**111b/1 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 line-up. 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 line-up, 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 line-ups. 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 line-up are classified as emergencies. Leagues must grant postponements for emergencies when a team fails to appear for its scheduled match due to reasons beyond its control. Adverse weather conditions are sufficient reason to grant a postponement without advance notice. Members must realize all bowlers do not face the same driving conditions or circumstances, so the ability of an individual to drive under adverse conditions cannot be used as a basis for declaring games forfeited.

**111c. Request**

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

**Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 111c.**

**111c/1 What happens when a team cannot field a legal line-up or does not appear and no pre-bowl or postponement is requested?**

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

**111c/2 Does a postponement have to be requested 48 hours prior to the scheduled night?**

No. A request for a postponement can be made any time prior to the scheduled match. If an emergency exists, the request should be made as soon as possible. However, the request must be made within the timelines of Rule 119.

**111c/3 Can a league adopt a rule allowing individuals/teams to pre-bowl for an undetermined date and have the scores held by the league secretary until needed?** No, all league games are to be bowled as scheduled unless they are postponed or pre-bowled by committee or board authorization. For a postponement to take place, a request must be made and permission granted. Requests are made for a specific date and are made up at a time agreed upon by the committee or board.

**111d. Granting**

Pre-bowl/postponement requests are reviewed and decided by:

1. **Adult leagues:** A committee appointed for this purpose or the board of directors.
2. **Junior leagues:** The league officials, or a committee appointed for this purpose. Decisions made by the committee or league official may be protested to the board of directors under the provisions of Rule 119. (See Rule 119 for protest/appeal procedures.)

**Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 111d.****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 Rule 103b and Rule 111d, Item 1, which authorize the board to decide on postponements.

**111d/2 How is a postponement for the entire league rescheduled?**

To reschedule a postponed league session, the proprietor should be consulted and the decision is made with agreement of the league board under Rule 103b. The season could be extended with the missed session bowled the following week and each succeeding week advanced. If arrangements can be made with the proprietor, the postponed games could be bowled any time lanes are available. Most importantly, ensure that everyone concerned understands how the rescheduling will be done.

**111d/3 Can a league allow an officer to grant postponements?**

A committee consists of one or more individuals. Although we recommend a postponement committee of three, including the league secretary, it is acceptable for the president to appoint an officer to make the decision. All protests or challenges regarding postponements or pre-bowls are decided by the board.

**111d/4 Can a league adopt a rule allowing the opposing team captain to grant postponements?**

No. When a request for a postponement is made, it is up to the league board of directors or postponement committee to decide what is sufficient cause to grant the postponement. The requirement is to assure that a team's right to request a postponement is protected and to be certain a team is not required to forfeit points because the opposing team might not grant a postponement.

**111d/5 How is the decision made to grant a pre-bowl or postponement?**

The committee and/or board should carefully consider the reasons for each request and be consistent in when granting or denying a postponement or pre-bowl. Although reasons for requests do not have to be catastrophic or an emergency, it is the committee or board's decision whether or not to grant the pre-bowl or postponement. When a committee consists of more than one person or the board makes the decision, a majority vote is required. The decision can be made at a meeting or via a telephone poll of all committee/board members.

**111d/6 If a team cannot bowl at the regularly scheduled time, can they call the bowling centre, bowl and turn the scores into the desk or league secretary?**

No. A team cannot pre- or post-bowl without permission. Contacting the centre does not fulfil the requirement to receive permission to pre- or post-bowl. Only a committee or the board of directors can grant a pre-bowl or postponement.

**111e. Procedure**

Following is the procedure to be used for pre-bowling or postponements:

1. When teams are bowling in direct opposition, the captains of the teams involved shall agree to a date for bowling the pre-bowl/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 centre 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 pre-bowled or postponed match shall be included in determining handicap.
5. Pre-bowled 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 BTBA Awards except High Score Awards as designated in Rule 51a, Rule 51b, Rule 51c, Rule 51d and Rule 52b.

### **Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 111e.**

#### **111e/1 If a team is granted a pre-bowl 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. Notification of the opposing team is courtesy, and games cannot be forfeited. If the league adopted a rule requiring notification and the opposing team was not notified and filed a written protest, the league board would have the following options:

- a. Games stand as bowled.
- b. Null and void both teams' scores and require both teams to re-bowl in direct opposition.

#### **111e/2 What average and handicap are Arrused for a pre-bowl and/or postponement?** The averages and handicaps as of the date the games are bowled must be used in both postponed and pre-bowled games. All games bowled prior to the postponed or prebowled games are used to determine average and handicap.

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

There is no BTBA 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 pre-bowl 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 pre-bowl, they have exhausted their eligibility for that league session.

#### **111e/5 The league had a team pre-bowl for a specific league session. The team pre-bowled and then, due to severe weather, the league cancelled bowling on that date and resumed the following week. What happens to the pre-bowled scores?**

If the team pre-bowled and the league session was subsequently cancelled, BTBA recommends the board meet and choose one of the following options:

**Option 1:** The pre-bowled scores are applied to the rescheduled league session. The team would not be permitted to re-bowl that week as their scores have already been recorded and their eligibility exhausted.

**Option 2:** The league board null and voids the pre-bowled scores and the team is allowed to bowl the rescheduled league session.

#### **111e/6 Can the league secretary hold the pre-bowled scores and apply them to individual average records on the date the pre-bowled games are bowled for?**

No. Pre-bowled scores must be added to a bowler's average record immediately upon being bowled.

**Example:** After week 1, the bowler pre-bowled for week 4. The games are entered into the bowler's record on the second line and average is recalculated and used for week two of the schedule. The bowler will have six games bowled going into week two.



**111e/7 Can you explain when High Scores will or will not be recognized by BTBA?** BTBA will recognize High Scores bowled when:

1. Two scheduled opponents pre-bowl or post-bowl together. (Direct Opposition.)
2. The entire league is rescheduled.
3. A team is bowling alone during league play because the opposing team has pre- or post-bowled.
4. A team bowling alone because the league has uneven number of teams.

High Scores will not be recognized by BTBA when:

1. An individual or team bowls unopposed.
2. Games are bowled unopposed before or after a league session.
3. League has uneven number of teams and the team without an opponent does not bowl with the league.
4. Two teams from the same league that are not scheduled against each other bowl together.
5. Two teams from different leagues bowl together.

### **111f. Time Limit for Bowling**

Pre-bowled/postponed games must be bowled as follows:

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

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

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

### **Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 111f.**

**111f/1 What if a team granted a postponement does not make up the games within the league's time limit?**

A team can request an extension if they do not make up games within the time limit set by league rule. The committee or board considers the reason the games were not made up and decides whether to grant additional time to make the games up.

**111f/2 Can a league adopt a rule placing a time limit on postponed games?**

Leagues can adopt rules placing a time limit to make up games bowled unopposed. However, they cannot adopt a rule for makeup games bowled in direct competition. Rule 111f states postponements must be made up before the date of the scheduled competition for final team standings or each segment of a split season or seven days of the final date of the schedule or segment. The only exception is when a protest or appeal is pending finalization under Rule 119. Therefore, a league wanting to place time limits on direct competition makeup game(s), can adopt a rule indicating the game(s) "should" be made up within a specified time period.

**111f/3 What happens if a postponement is not made up before the end of the season?**

If games are not made up before the end of the season (end of the half, quarter, etc.) as required by Rule 111f, the games are subject to forfeiture, unless the board rules otherwise. The board considers the reason why the games were never made up and determines whether forfeiture is in order or if the games should be declared null and void, and the final position standings for all teams computed on percentages.



## 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 or roll-off of such ties.

## Rule 113 - Roll-offs/Playoffs/Special Contests

### 113a. Definition

#### 1. Roll-off:

A roll-off is a separate competition conducted to break ties. A roll-off must be conducted:

- a. To determine the champion when a tie exists for first place at the end of the league schedule, unless the league allows for co-champions.
- b. To determine first place when a tie occurs in any segment of a split season.
- c. When the league decides to break a tie for any other position.

#### 2. Playoff:

A playoff is a scheduled competition conducted by leagues. The playoff may be conducted in one session to determine a champion when the league bowls a split season, or across multiple sessions such as a bracketed playoff system.

Scores bowled which qualify for BTBA 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.*

### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 113a.

#### **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 playoffs?**

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.

#### **113a/2 When there is a tie for the league championship, can a league adopt a rule stating total pins for the season will break the tie?**

No, according to the NOTE in Rule 113a, total pins for the season cannot be used to break a tie for any place in the position standings. A league may adopt a rule to allow for co-champions, thus eliminating the need for a roll-off, but not one that would use total pins. See Rule 113b for roll-off procedures.

#### **113a/3 The two teams tied for the first half championship don't want to have a special roll-off. They would like to use the games from the next time they are paired against each other for the roll-off and the regular match. Can they do this?**

No, there is no provision in BTBA rules to allow scores to be used for more than one league session.

#### **113a/4 Can total pins break a tie when three teams are tied?**

No. The ties in standings cannot be broken by total pins. The only way the ties can be broken is to hold a roll-off, this is not commonly used to break standing ties other than first place. We recommend prize money for the tied places be added together and distributed equally to the teams tied. For example: If the prize money for three teams tied for 4th place and is £200 for 4th, £175 for 5th and £125 for 6th place. Add the prize money and divide by three.  $(200+175+125= 500/3=£166.66$  per team)



## 113b. Procedures

Competition 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. Competition(s) 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 competition(s) are included in determining handicap.
  - c. When more than two teams are involved in a playoff/roll-off, total pins from the competition shall decide the winner.
  - d. If a tie exists at the end of a playoff, each team bowls an additional frame until the tie is broken.
  - e. Games do not count toward special league prizes.
2. Games are counted toward individual averages.
3. The league secretary arranges to have lanes available.

### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 113b.

#### 113b/1 What average and handicap are used in a playoff or roll-off?

Unless otherwise provided by league rules, the players involved use their average and handicap as of the date the competition is bowled.

For example, if a league bowls a split season and there is a tie for first place, and the roll-off for the first half is not bowled until after three weeks into the second half, the average and handicap for the roll-off 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?

A roll-off must be bowled. Total pins from the roll-off 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.

#### 113b/3 If a tie still exists after a roll-off series is completed, how is the tie broken?

In the absence of a league rule 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 additional tenth frames needed to break the tie. This frame stands alone to determine the winner and is not added to the previous roll-off 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 roll-off be conducted?

The roll-off 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.

#### 113b/5 If a league wants to adopt another league playoff format, what is acceptable?

The league could adopt one of the following formats to determine the winner of the playoff. According to Rule 113b, under no circumstances may the playoff consist of less than one frame.

- a. Bowl one or more frames or games.
- b. Best two out of three games.
- c. Total pins of a three-game playoff series.
- d. A point for each game, but none for the series.
- e. Stepladder finals.





## 113c. Special Contests

A special contest is competition for prize money 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. BTBA league or tournament rules govern play.
3. Scores bowled which qualify for BTBA awards will be recognized.
4. Games are counted toward individual averages.

## 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.
    - i. A team shall give notice to the league secretary.
    - ii. 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 BTBA membership.

### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 114a.

#### **114a/1 Can the league adopt a rule requiring a league member's resignation to be in writing?**

No, Rule 114a does not require written resignation, so a league requirement would not be enforced by BTBA. If the captain was aware a bowler did not plan to return and the secretary was notified, then the notification requirement would be fulfilled, even though the league rule has not been complied with. When a resignation is challenged, the question to be answered is whether those involved were aware the individual had actually resigned.

#### **114a/2 If management has banned a league member from the centre, do they qualify for prize money through the league?**

When a league member has been banned from the centre, it is considered a forced action. The member removed qualifies for a portion of the team prize money prorated on the number of weeks the individual contributed to the prize fund.

#### **114a/3 When a league member has been banned from the centre, is the member required to provide a two-week notice?**

No. A member banned from the centre is considered a forced action. Therefore, the individuals not required to provide a two-week notice.

#### **114a/4 If a team member resigns or is replaced during the season, are they entitled to share the team prize money?**

Regardless of how long bowlers compete with a team, they qualify for a prorated share of the team's prize money provided they resigned in accordance with Rule 114a or were replaced by the team captain. (See Rule 104a.)

Rule 104a, Item 7, requires the team captain to pay each member of the team within 15 days after receiving prize money in accordance with any verbal or written agreements. BTBA holds that prize distribution among team members is a team matter. When a member has bowled part of the season and is unable to be a member at the end of the schedule, it is common practice for teams to prorate prize money between the member who resigned and the replacement based on the number of games each bowled and paid for during the season.



## 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 were 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 BTBA 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, hand delivered or emailed.
    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 defence.
  - 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 BTBA local association, or to BTBA Head office. 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 re-join the league with the written consent of two-thirds of the full membership of the board. If permitted to re-join, the average shall be continued. **NOTE:** Leagues have the authority to act on verbal complaints.

### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 115a.

#### 115a/1 A player or team in the league continually uses foul language during league play. What can be done?

The league officers should privately discuss the problem with the player(s) in question and the team captain informing them that foul language is not acceptable in the league. If the player(s) continue(s), a written complaint may be filed with a league officer asking for dismissal from the league. The procedures outlined in Rule 115a must be followed.



### **115a/2 When a league receives a written complaint asking for removal of an officer or dismissal of another player or a team, what must be done?**

The procedure outlined in Rule 115a must be followed. The president should schedule a meeting of the board of directors within one week of receiving a written complaint. A written notice stating the date, time and place of the meeting and a copy of the complaint must be provided to each individual charged. The board allows each person involved to be heard and ask questions before making a decision. To dismiss a player or remove an officer, a two-thirds vote of the board members present is required. In the case of an entire team, the board must vote on each team member separately. After the meeting, a written notice of the board's decision and the right to appeal must be given to the individuals involved.

### **115a/3 Can the league simplify things and adopt a rule to require automatic dismissal when a bowler misses two weeks in a row without an explanation?**

No. A member cannot be dismissed without following Rule 115a or Rule 115b. The rule could state that a bowler who owes league fees will be subject to dismissal, but not automatically. Written charges should be filed with the board, and the member must be notified of the meeting and be given the opportunity to defend themselves.

### **115b. Non-payment of Fees and/or Improper Withdrawal**

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. Upon receipt of a written complaint, the league proceeds as follows:
2.
  - 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, hand delivered or emailed.
    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 defence. If the accused is a youth member, the parent or guardian also must be invited to the meeting.
  - c. Prepares a roster listing those present and absent. A quorum of the board of directors must be present at the meeting.
  - d. Maintains minutes of the meeting and all documents relating to the charges. The minutes shall include:
    1. An accounting of arrearages, including dates and amounts. The bowler may not be charged for more than six (6) sessions.
    2. Whether the accused was present or absent when the arrearage occurred.
    3. The date of replacement (if applicable).
  - e. Votes to determine if the accused is guilty. A two-thirds vote of the board members present and voting shall be required. After voting:
    1. If found not guilty (two-thirds vote not achieved), the charges are dismissed.
    2. If found guilty, the local association or BTBA Head Office is to be furnished with a copy of Items a-g indicated below and should be submitted within 30 days after the league meeting.
      - a. The meeting notices.
      - b. The meeting minutes.
      - c. List of board members, officers and team captains present or absent.
      - d. The vote count for the recommendation of the league 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.



3. Upon receipt of the file, the local association manager shall verify that complete information was provided and submit a copy of the file to BTBA Head Office.

### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 115b.

**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 centre. 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 non-payment 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.

**115b/2 How should the league handle a member whose checks are constantly being returned because of insufficient funds?**

When a member’s check is returned because of insufficient funds, the treasurer should contact the member and insist on cash payment for the amount of the check plus any service charges incurred. If payment is not received, the member could be charged with non-payment of league fees under Rule 115b. We also suggest that no further checks be accepted and the player notified that league fees can only be paid in cash. If checks are a problem, the league may adopt a rule stating checks will not be accepted for payment of league fees. In instances where a league has an arrearage rule, the member issuing the check is considered in arrears. Games bowled by the member are subject to forfeiture if payment is not received.

**115b/3 If a member leaves the league without notice and still owes fees, what should an officer do?**

When a member is accused of leaving the league without notice and owing fees, the league should try to collect the owed fees prior to taking disciplinary action. Many bowlers are not aware they may be suspended from BTBA membership for non-payment of league fees. If payment is not received, a written complaint should be filed immediately with the board and copied to the delinquent member. The provisions of Rule 115b must be followed.

**115b/4 If a member leaves the league and is delinquent in their league fees, how many sessions can they be charged for in accordance with Rule 115b?**

According to Rule 115b, Item 1(d)(1), the bowler may not be charged for more than six (6) sessions. Immediate action should be taken by the league upon discovering an individual is not returning and still owes league fees.

## 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 scorebook 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 scorebooks must agree with the score sheet at the end of each game.
5. After the scorebooks are verified and signed by the opposing team captains, they are the league’s official record for the season.
6. Errors in scoring or calculation must be corrected by a league officer immediately upon discovery.

Any questionable errors in scoring or calculation shall be decided by the league board.



**Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 116a.**

**116a/1 Does the league board have to meet before an error can be corrected?**

When an obvious error is to be corrected, a directive from the board is not necessary; a league officer is authorized to make changes. However, Rule 116a, Item 6 states, the board of directors decides on questionable errors in scoring or calculation.

**16a/2 Is there a time limit for correcting errors in scoring or calculation?**

Corrections may be made until the prizes are distributed. The 15-day time limit of Rule 119 does not apply.

**116a/3 Can an error on a score sheet or recap sheet be corrected after the team captains have signed the recap sheet?**

Yes. Although Rule 104a, Item 5, and Rule 116a, Item 5, require the captains to sign the scorebook and verify the scores bowled, their signatures do not prevent a score from being corrected. An officer is required by Rule 116a, Item 6, to correct errors if they are found after the captains have signed the recap sheets. Both captains should be notified of the corrections.

**116b. Scores Lost**

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

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

**Commonly Asked Question – Rule 116b.**

**116b/1 We use automatic scoring, 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, BTBA holds games in question should be re-bowled.

**Rule 117 – Prizes**

**117a. Prize List**

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

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

**Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 117a.**

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

The league 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:

- a. 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.
- b. 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.

**117a/2 How is prize money paid out under a split season format?**

Many leagues bowling a split season find it more satisfactory to approve a prize list for each segment. The payments are based on team position standings in each segment, although the prize money is not usually paid out at the end of each segment.

**117a/3 What happens if the league did not adopt a prize list by the fifth week of the season?**

According to BTBA Rule 102c, Item 5 the league president arranges to have the prize committee submit one or more prize lists for consideration by the fifth week after the start of the season. If a prize committee was not appointed, the president should appoint one immediately and one or more prize lists should be submitted to the league board for approval as soon as possible.

## 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 state otherwise. If a league rule limits teams or individuals to one award, the rule should also state which prize a member or team will win if a score qualifies for more than one.*



**Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 117b.**

**117b/1 Two league members are in contention for the high average award, but one of them bowled half of the season as a substitute. Are they both eligible for prize consideration?**

According to Rule 117b, scores bowled as a substitute are not eligible for prize consideration for any award based on average. Thus, the substitute who later became a regular member is not eligible for the award as they did not bowl two-thirds of the season as a regular member.

**117b/2 We limit our members to just one individual award. Would the high average award be included in the prize limitation for members?**

Many leagues regard high average as a special achievement or accomplishment, thereby exempting a member earning that award from the league's provision limiting members to one award. However, a league by rule can limit the number of awards an individual would be eligible for and can include the high average award in that limitation.

**117b/3 If members qualify for both a handicap and scratch award, and the league rule limits a member to one award but does not state which one takes precedence, how is award distribution determined?**

In accordance with Rule 103b, the league board should make the decision. Some bowlers believe scratch scores are more meaningful, while others believe handicap awards should take precedence in a handicap league. The board will make the decision and a league rule should be adopted for the next season.

**117b/4 Can scratch awards be issued in a handicap league?**

Yes, as long as provided by league rules or the adopted prize list.

**117b/5 A member is in contention for the high game award, but the member bowled as a substitute during the early part of the season. The player bowled the game as a regular member and not as a substitute. Is the member eligible for the league prize?**

Yes, provided the individual bowled the required number of games (such as two-thirds) to qualify for an individual award. According to Rule 117b, Item 2(a)(2), the games bowled as a substitute and as a regular member are combined to determine the required number of games, unless the league rules state otherwise. Therefore, since the member bowled the game as a regular league member, they would be eligible for the award.

**117b/6 Our league gives out an award for the high average bowler in the league. The league has a rule requiring participants to bowl two-thirds of the scheduled league games or 60 games to be eligible for a league award. The bowler who has high average bowled 84 games in the league but their first 12 games in the league were bowled as a substitute. Is the bowler still eligible for the high average award?**

Yes. The league secretary subtracts the 12 games bowled as a substitute from the 84 game total and resulting pinfall bowled from the bowler's total pinfall. If the bowler still has high average based on the 72 games and the adjusted total pinfall bowled as a regular member, they would be entitled to the award.

**117b/7 If a member's average exceeds the base figure for handicapping, is the member eligible for handicap awards?**

The member is eligible for handicap awards unless the league has adopted a rule limiting awards to those with averages under the base figure.



### **117b/8 If a team member resigns or is replaced during the season, are they entitled to share the team's prize money?**

Regardless of how long bowlers compete with a team, they qualify for a prorated share of the team's prize money provided they resigned in accordance with Rule 114a or were replaced by the team captain. Rule 104a, Item 7, requires the team captain to pay each member of the team within 15 days after receiving prize money in accordance with any verbal or written agreements. BTBA holds that prize distribution among team members is a team matter. When a member has bowled part of the season and is unable to be a member at the end of the schedule, it is common practice for teams to prorate prize money between the member who resigned and the replacement based on the number of games each bowled and paid for during the season.

## **Rule 118 - Averages**

### **118a. How Determined**

A bowling average is determined by dividing the total number of pins credited to a bowler in one BTBA 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.

### **Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 118a.**

#### **118a/1 Two bowlers are tied for high average at the end of the season. Should their averages be carried out to fractions of a pin or do they both get trophies?**

Extra pins must be carried out to a fraction of a pin to determine who has the higher average. Divide each bowler's total pins for the season by the number of games bowled and carry it out several decimal places. However, two bowlers could be tied in averages, including the fraction of a pin. If they are tied, they should each receive an award.

#### **118a/2 In a split-season league, we know standings are started over at the half, but how about averages?**

A rule may be adopted to start averages over again at the split in the schedule for handicapping purposes only, although it is not recommended. Rule 118a states, in part, a bowling average is determined by dividing the total number of pins credited to a bowler by the number of games bowled in one league in a season. If a member needs average verification, the average must be computed on the basis of all games bowled by the member, and not just those games bowled in the first or second segment. When final averages are reported, each must be based on all games bowled and on total pins for the entire season.

#### **118a/3 Our league rules allow both individuals and teams to pre-bowl. Can the league secretary hold the pre-bowled scores and apply them to individual average records on the date the pre-bowled games are bowled for?**

No. Scores are not held until the date games are pre-bowled for when individuals or teams are granted permission to pre-bowl for a later league session. The scores prebowled are entered into the bowler's average record at the time bowled and before the next regular scheduled session to calculate the current average.





## 118b. How Established

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

1. A right-handed bowler must always bowl right-handed. Similarly, a left-handed bowler must always bowl left-handed. **Penalty:** Forfeiture of game.
2. No combination of scores bowled both right- and left-handed can be used to compute an average, except as stipulated in Rule 4c.
3. The league's board of directors may, by majority vote, adjust a player's average before the player bowls in the league or during the season due to injury or disability. Separate averages must be maintained.
4. **Adult Leagues:** The league's board of directors may, with two-thirds vote, adjust a player's average upward during the season. Separate averages must be maintained. The bowler must use the adjusted average or established league average (whichever is higher) for the remainder of the season.
5. **Junior leagues:** A bowler using a two-handed delivery will establish an average with two hands. When the bowler changes to a one-handed delivery, they must establish a new average using that hand.

### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 118b.

#### 118b/1 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.

**Option 1:** 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.)

**Option 2:** 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 count toward their individual averages and league awards unless the league rules state otherwise.)

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

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

#### 118b/3 A bowler is using the two-handed approach. The bowler's dominate hand is the right hand. Can the bowler use the right hand for spares?

Yes, since both deliveries are with the same dominate hand, the bowler did not change delivery and, therefore, is not in violation of any BTBA 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.

#### 118b/5 What are the requirements of a delivery for a two-handed approach?

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



**118c. League Entering Average**

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

**NOTE:** *The following are options for entering averages:*

1. **Highest Average:** The highest average in any BTBA league in which a player competes in one season.
2. **Composite Average:** The average of a bowler who bowls in two or more BTBA 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.*

<p><b>Commonly Asked Question – Rule 118c.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>What score is used for the missed game? How are average and handicap figured?</b> If a bowler does not have an entering average, 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 ÷ 2 = 135 average). This will give you the bowler's average which is used to handicap all games of the series. 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.</p>
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**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.

<p><b>Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 118d.</b></p> <p><b>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?</b></p> <p>Entering averages must be used to determine compliance with the league cap. When a member on a team is replaced or a substitute is used, the combined entering averages of those players will constitute the team average for the purpose of meeting the league average cap.</p> <p><b>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?</b></p> <p>According to Rule 104a, Item 1, it is the team captain's responsibility to ensure the eligibility of the team. Therefore, the captain must change players to meet the cap. If it is not possible to meet the cap, a postponement should be requested.</p>
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**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 lefthanded or vice-versa, the league board of directors, by majority vote, may permit the bowler to change delivery. If approval is obtained, the bowler must establish a new average.

**Commonly Asked Question – Rule 118e.**

**118e/1 I hurt my bowling hand and was granted permission to use the other hand. Once my bowling hand is better, what do I have to do before I can go back to using my regular bowling hand?**

You must get permission from the board to return to the original hand you started the league with.

**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 Junior 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 roll-off or 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 BTBA Head Office. The local association's decision can be appealed to BTBA Head Office.

**NOTE:** *League protests received by local associations or BTBA Head Office 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 roll-off or playoff competition.

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

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

**Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 119.**

**119/1 Does the board have to make a decision on a verbal protest?**

No. However, the president may call a meeting to address a verbal protest. BTBA Rule 119 requires the board to act on all written protests filed within specific timelines.

**119/2 When a team uses an ineligible player, can a league officer declare games forfeited?**

Yes, league officers have authority to take action regarding games bowled by an ineligible player if detected within the time frames stated in Rule 119. If action is not taken within the time period, the games stand. League officials have the power to enforce league rules and to declare game(s) forfeited. If an officer fails to act, or a league member decides to challenge the officer's decision, a written protest will have to be filed in accordance with Rule 119.



## Rule 120 - Position Matches

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

- a. Teams shall be paired according to its league position standings and games bowled count as won and lost.
- b. Ties for position pairings shall be determined as follows, unless otherwise provided by league rule:
  1. **Scratch leagues:** By total scratch pinfall.
  2. **Handicap leagues:** By total pinfall with handicap.

### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 120.

**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?**

BTBA 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 roll-off 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 roll-off, 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 rolloff 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 roll-off.

**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?**

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

**120/5 Should position matches be determined when the schedule is adopted before the season begins or during the season?**

According to Rule 120, the league should decide on position matches when rules are adopted before the season begins. When the schedule is prepared, position matches are inserted as directed by the league rule. If a rule for position matches is not adopted before the season begins, unanimous written consent of all team captains or representatives is required to allow for position matches in the schedule.

**120/6 How are position match pairings determined when teams fail to make up postponement(s) or all teams in the league have not bowled the same number of games?**

When postponed games have not been completed before a position match or all teams have not bowled the same number of games to date, the secretary determines team pairings on a percentage of wins and losses when scheduling the position match.



**120/7 When there are an uneven number of teams in the league at the time of a position round, which team is paired against the non-existent team or is given a bye?**

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

## 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.

**Junior 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 BTBA membership. (See Rule 115b.)

### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 121.

**121/1 Who is responsible for the league fees when a team is unable to find a bowler to fill a vacancy?**

When there is a vacancy on a team for a prolonged period, and the team has made a serious effort to obtain a member but is not successful, it becomes a league problem and not just a team problem. In this situation, the board should agree to absorb the shortage caused by the vacancy. All league members should be encouraged to help recruit bowlers to fill vacancies.

**121/2 I have been told my son must pay league fees each week even if he is absent. Is this permitted in a youth league?**

The league may have this requirement; however, if a league wishes to do this we recommend the league's rules clearly indicate the specific amount of fees that must be paid on a weekly basis. If a league member is behind in paying league fees, the league has the authority to prohibit them from bowling in the league until the arrearage is paid.

## 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 junior 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.

### Commonly Asked Questions – Rule 122.

**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.



**122/2 Can league rules adopted at the end of the season be changed before the schedule starts?**

Yes. According to Rule 122, rules must be adopted at a meeting prior to the start of the league schedule. Therefore, a league may discuss and vote on their rules at the end of the season or during the off-season. However, rules adopted before the start of the season may be changed prior to the start of the league schedule by majority vote.

**122/3 Can centre management attend a league meeting?**

Yes. Centre management has a vested interest in the leagues within the centre. Many choose to attend meetings to answer questions related to the centre and its policies and advise leagues when adopting rules. However, unless the centre personnel present is a member of the league, they do not have voting privileges on motions before the league.

### **Rule 123 - Junior Instruction**

During sanctioned junior leagues, apart from the players, only licensed coaches or officials displaying licenses will be allowed in the playing area.