

3 League Play

All games of Tenpin Bowling, to be considered in league play, must actually be bowled and conducted in strict compliance with the following rules.

3.1 Team Strengths

Teams shall be made up of the correct number of players as defined in the rules of that particular league in which the games are to be bowled. Before starting the series the team captain should enter the names of the players on the score sheet.

3.2 Absentees

A legal line-up in league play is defined as three or more eligible players in a five-person team league, two or more eligible players in a three or four person team league, and one player in a two person team league. Where a league allows floating substitutes, it can be agreed by League Committee, before the start of the season, that in a five person team, a minimum of three of the team players must be present, two players in a three or four person team league, and one in a two person team league. If the minimum requirements are not met at the start of any game in the series, at the time scheduled by the league, the game shall be forfeited. When leagues include series totals in points won and a team forfeits one or more games in a series, the team shall receive a score of zero for the games forfeited. Members of the team forfeiting a game or games under this rule shall be allowed to bowl along with the team winning the points and have scores bowled to be included in league records to qualify for all league and STBA individual awards. The League Committee may adopt rules for the use of blind bowlers and handicaps in deciding league games. Blind scores may only be used when a legal line-up is present.

3.3 Tardy Players

Leagues may adopt rules regarding tardy players. Any player who arrives late may be permitted to bowl after a game has started, but their score shall begin at the frame being bowled, if provision for this situation has not be previously agreed by the League Committee.

Any player who arrives late and is permitted by the league rules to complete their full game/s, or finishes their final games before their team members or opponents, shall forfeit any claim for STBA recognition for high score for that particular game, but where the majority of the members or a League so agrees, they may count such score in deciding the contested game and in the recorded averages.

3.4 Substitutions

After a game has started no changes shall be made in the order of players. The Captain, may replace any of his players by a qualified substitute at any time during

the game, unless the league has adopted specific rules regarding this prior to the start of the season, in which case the league rule shall apply.

In mixed leagues where a substitute or replacement is made, the substitute or replacement must be of the same sex as the original player, unless the league has adopted rules at the start of the season regarding this, in which case the league rule will apply.

When a substitution is made during a game the score shall be accredited to the original player. Once a player has been removed they cannot return to bowl in that game. Scores which are recorded by this rule will not qualify for STBA recognition, or league individual high score awards.

When a player is unable to complete a game through disability, injury or emergency, and a qualified substitute or replacement is not available to bowl, the team of which he is a member shall count his actual score for the frames bowled in the game total, plus $1/10^{\text{th}}$ of his blind score for each of the remaining frames in the game. The frames bowled shall not be used in calculating the bowler's average. The league may adopt a rule, requiring the secretary to maintain averages so that each individual average reflects only the actual frames bowled.

3.5 Forfeiture and Recognition of Games

A team who is unable to present its full membership and refuses to bowl with less than its full team shall forfeit any games which it declines to bowl. When a game is declared forfeited, the team which is present must bowl as though the games is actually being played, completing a team frame on one lane before starting to bowl a succeeding frame.

All points in the match shall be awarded to the team which is present, unless the league has adopted a rule prior to the start of the season, requiring the individual and/or team to bowl their average less a designated number of pins (the amount being determined by the league rule) to receive credit for such points, in such case individual or team points not won for failing to bowl the prescribed score shall not be credited to any team.

The STBA will recognise any score bowled by one or more teams in any league sanctioned by STBA. These scores shall count for league averages and special awards

3.6 League Games

The bowling of 10 complete frames over a pair of lanes shall be deemed an official game. If there is equipment failure then the League Committee may authorise the completion of the game and series on a different certified pair of lanes. An interrupted game and series which cannot be completed on the same date must be resumed from the point of interruption. Two Lanes immediately adjoining each other shall be used in each games of league play. Teams scheduled to bowl against each other must be in direct competition on adjacent lanes thus allowing them to

oppose each other, the only exception to this, if one of teams scheduled to bowl forfeits the match. No team or individual may bowl against scores, nor will any individual be allowed to bowl games before or after the match.

3.7 League Series

In league play the first game of the series shall be started on the lane which the team is scheduled. Succeeding games will start on the lane in which the team finished the tenth frame. The League may adopt the rule that each game in a series may be bowled on different pair of lanes providing a full game is bowled on each pair.

3.8 Order of Bowling

The members of the contesting teams will bowl, in order of the score sheet, bowl one frame on one lane, and for the next frame bowl on the opposite lane, thus bowling five frames on each lane to complete the game. Each player shall bowl two bowls in every frame except where a strike or a player strikes or spares in the tenth frame. No pins may be conceded and only those actually knocked down will be counted. Every frame must be completed at the time by the bowler bowling in their regular order. If a strike is bowled in the tenth frame, then the player will be allowed to bowl two more balls, if a spare is bowled in the tenth then the player will be allowed to bowl one more ball on the same lane.

3.9 Etiquette

If the question arises as to whom of any two opposing bowlers in the same position in the team shall bowl first, it shall be upon the bowler on the right to do so. In the event the pins are not ready for the bowler on the right, the left hand player must wait until his opponent's pins are properly set.

Bowlers bowling in a sanctioned league or tournament must not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

3.10 Decision for league tied games

In league play if opposing teams tie for points in any games or series then each team will be awarded $\frac{1}{2}$ the points available for that game or series. There will be no roll off to decide the points.

3.11 Postponements

All league games must be bowled as scheduled unless a request for postponement or pre-bowl has been authorised by the League Committee. In the event of a dispute the League Committee shall determine what shall be sufficient cause to grant a postponement, at no time a League Committee cannot enforce a rule of no postponement.

A request to postponed or pre-bowl a series should be made in plenty of time to the League secretary, or in their absence any League Official, not less than seven (7) days before the match is due to be bowled, at which time the opposing team captain should be informed. The foregoing rule does not apply for postponements for emergencies, when a team fails to appear for their match owing to reasons beyond their control. The opposing Team Captain must be informed before commencement of bowling. The Secretary shall organise suitable lanes for the bowling of the postponed series under league conditions.

The team captains shall agree a time and date to bowl the postponed series within one week of the scheduled date. If the team captains cannot agree on a date then the League Secretary will inform each caption of the time and date of the match. This notification must be given at least seven (7) days in advance of the match. All matches must be bowled before the last night of the schedule unless a postponed game may have a bearing on the prize list and must be bowled within seven (7) days of the final night of the schedule for team standings.

Postponed games should be bowled on the lanes which are scheduled and under league conditions, if they are not available then the League Secretary may allow the games to be bowled on a different pair but they should be lanes used in the league. The League Committee may authorise the use of lanes which are not normally used if the normal league lanes are unavailable. Pre-bowled games should be treated in the same way as postponed, if it is a handicap league then the handicap used should be at the date of the games bowled and not at the scheduled date.

3.12 Failure to Bowl when scheduled

When one of the two teams fails to appear at the scheduled time and date, and no postponement has been called then the game/s shall be declared forfeited; except in an emergency situation which the team has no control over. In this case the game/s shall be rescheduled as if a postponement has been called. Any dispute arising through this rule may be appealed to the STBA.

3.13 Team bowling alone

The team which is present must bowl their games as if they were bowling against another team, in compliance with rule 3.5.

3.14 Defaulting more than once or refusing to bowl in a season

When a team or individual defaults or refuses to bowl on more than one occasion in the league season or refuses to continue to bowl in the league, except in the cases of injury, disability, or emergency, may be removed from the league and also shall be liable for suspension from STBA.

3.15 Withdrawal of a team

When a team or individual withdraws from a league without giving a satisfactory reason, or is removed from the league by the League Committee, they shall not receive any recompense from the league and shall be liable for suspension from STBA.

3.16 Transferring Team Membership

A player who has competed for a team in a league and whose scores have counted in deciding games may transfer membership from one team to another in the league during the season providing;

- a. The Captain of the team which the player has bowled for agrees to his release.
- b. 2/3rds of the League captains agree to the transfer
- c. A player so transferred may not return to any team which he has previously bowled in the season concerned.

This rule shall not apply if the League Committee, prior to the start of the season, has adopted a rule which allows the transfer of players between teams during the season. Under no circumstances can a team player bowl for two or more teams at any one time, in the same league for the regularly scheduled games.

3.17 Closed League

A closed league is where players are exclusively drawn from a civic, fraternal or military organisation, plant, company, church or similar organisations. These leagues may be sanctioned under the discretion of the STBA.

3.18 Scoring League Games

Scores in all league games shall be recorded on a score sheet which is in full view of all players and the public witnessing the games. In manual scoring every frame should be recorded on the score sheet. Where computers are used then the game totals should be recorded on the score sheet against the correct player, and a record should be kept for reference by the team captains. Any changes to the scoring should be verified by the League Committee and the two opposing teams.

3.19 Scorers

If manual scoring is being used then no change in the scorer during the game is permissible except if the scorer is incompetent, noisy, interferes with play and is subject to betting on the outcome of the game.