

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS



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Scoring the Game

Rule 1. A game of Tenpins shall consist of ten frames. Each player shall bowl two balls in each first nine frames except when he shall make a strike. A player who scores a strike or spare in the tenth frame shall deliver three balls. A ball is legally delivered when it leaves the bowler's possession and crosses the foul line into playing territory

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
X	X	X	7 2	8 /	F 9	X	7 /	9 -	X X 8
30	57	76	85	95	104	124	143	152	180

Strike

Rule 2. A strike is recorded when the player completes a legal delivery and bowls down the full set-up of ten pins on the first ball. It is designated by an (x) in the small square in the upper right-hand corner of the frame in which the complete set of ten pins is bowled down with the first ball. The count in each frame where a strike is bowled shall be left open until the player has completed two more deliveries. The maximum count on one strike when followed by a spare is 20.

Double

Rule 3. When a player bowls two strikes in succession legally delivered, he shall have scored a double. The count in the frame where the first strike was bowled shall be left open until the player has completed his next delivery. When all pins are knocked down twice in succession the count for the first strike is 20 plus the number of pins knocked down with the first ball of the third frame following. The maximum count on a double figuring a nine pin count on the first ball following the second strike is 29.

Triple or Turkey

Rule 4. In scoring three successive strikes, the player shall be credited with 30 pins in the frame in which the first strike was bowled. Thus, in a game of ten full frames, a player must bowl 12 strikes in succession in order to bowl a game of 300

Spare

Rule 5. Any player who bowls down the remaining pins with a legally delivered second ball in any frame has scored a spare is designated by a (/) in the small square in the upper right-hand corner of the frame in which it was made. The number of pins knocked down after the first delivery before the player bowls for the spare should be marked by a small figure in the upper left-hand corner of the frame. The count in such frame proper is left open until the player shall have bowled his first ball in the next frame following, when the number of pins knocked down by the first ball shall be added to the ten pins represented by his spare, and the total shall be credited therein. When a spare is scored in the tenth frame, a third ball shall be bowled in that frame.

Error

Rule 6. A player shall have made an error when he fails to bowl down all ten pins after having completed two deliveries in a given frame provided the pins left standing after the first ball is bowled do not constitute a split. An error is designated by a (-) in the small square in the upper right-hand corner of the frame in which the error is made. The number of pins knocked down after the first delivery, before the player bowls at the remaining pins, should be marked in the upper right corner of the frame. The count in every frame where an error is committed shall be recorded

immediately following the player's second delivery.

Split

Rule 7. A split shall be a set-up of pins remaining standing after the first ball has been legally delivered provided the head-pin is down, and

(1) At least one pin is down between two or more pins which remain standing, as for example: 7-9,3-10.

(2) At least one pin is down immediately ahead of two or more pins which remain standing, as for example 5-6.

EDITOR'S NOTE

If a split is designated it is normally done with a (O) but any other symbol may be used.

Pinfall - Legal

Rule 8. Every ball delivered by the player shall count, unless declared a dead ball. Pins must then be re-spotted after the cause for declaring such dead ball has been removed.

(1) Pins which are knocked down by another pin or pins rebounding in play from the side partition, rear cushion or sweep bar, when it is at rest on the pin deck prior to sweeping dead wood are counted as pins down.

(2) If when rolling at a full set-up or in order to make a spare it is discovered immediately after the ball has been delivered, that one or more pins are improperly set, although not missing, the ball and resulting pinfall shall be counted. It is each player's responsibility to determine if the set-up is correct. He shall insist that any pins incorrectly set be re-spotted before delivering the ball, otherwise he implies that the set-up is satisfactory. No change in the position of any pins which are left standing can be made after a previous delivery in order to make a spare, unless the pin setter has moved or misplaced any pin after the previous delivery and prior to the bowling of the next ball.

(3) Pins which are knocked down by a fair ball, and remain lying on the lane or in the gutters, or which lie so as to touch kickbacks or side partitions, are termed dead wood and counted as pins down and must be removed before the next ball is bowled.

Pinfall - Illegal

Rule 9. When any of the following incidents occur the ball counts as a ball rolled, but pins knocked down shall not count:-

(1) When pins are knocked down or displaced by a ball which leaves the lane before reaching the pins.

(2) When a ball rebounds from the rear cushion.

(3) When pins come in contact with the body, arms or legs of a pin setter and rebound.

(4) A standing pin which falls upon removing dead wood or which is knocked down by a pin setter or mechanical pin setting equipment shall not count and must be replaced on the pin spot inscribed on the pin deck where it originally stood before delivery of the ball.

(5) Pins which are bowled off the lane, rebound and remain standing on the lane must be counted as pins standing.

(6) If in delivering the ball a foul is committed, any pins knocked down by such delivery shall not be counted.

Dead Ball

Rule 10. A ball shall be declared dead if any of the following occur, in which case a ball shall not count. The pins must be re-spotted after the cause for declaring such dead ball has been removed and player shall be required to re-bowl.

- (a) If after the player delivers his ball and attention is immediately called to the fact that one or more pins were missing from the set-up.
- (b) When a human pin setter removes or interferes with any pin or pins before they stop rolling or before the ball reaches the pins.
- (c) When a player bowls on the wrong lane or out of turn.
- (d) When a player is interfered with by a pin setter, another bowler, spectator, or moving object as the ball is being delivered and before delivery is completed, the player must then and there accept the resulting pinfall or demand that pins be re-spotted.
- (e) When any pins at which he is bowling are moved or knocked down in any manner as the player is delivering the ball and before the ball reaches the pins.
- (f) When a player's ball comes in contact with any foreign obstacle.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The word pinsetter refers to a human being and not a machine

No Pins May be Conceded

Rule 11. No pins may be conceded and only those actually knocked down or moved entirely off the playing surface of the lane as a result of the legal delivery of the ball by the player may be counted. Every frame must be completed at the time the player is bowling in his regular order.

Replacement of Pins

Rule 12 Should a pin be broken or otherwise badly damaged during the game, it shall be replaced at once by another as nearly uniform in weight and condition as consistent with the set in use. The league or tournament officials shall in all cases be the judges in the matter of replacement of such pins. A broken pin does not change the score made by a bowler. The number of pins knocked down are counted, after which the broken pin is replaced.

Bowling on Wrong Lane

Rule 13. When only one player or the lead-off persons on both teams bowl on the wrong lane and the error is discovered before another player has bowled, a dead ball shall be declared and the player/s required to re-bowl on the correct lane(s). When more than one player on the same team has bowled on the wrong lane, the game shall be completed without adjustment and the next game shall be started on the correctly scheduled lane. In singles match play competition, where a player normally bowls two frames each time it is his turn to bowl, and a player bowls on the wrong lane for these two frames, a dead ball shall be declared and the player required to re-bowl both frames on the correct lanes providing the error is discovered prior to the time the opposing player has made a legal delivery. If the error is not discovered until the opposing player has bowled, the score shall count and the player shall be required to bowl his subsequent frames on the correct lanes.

Balls - Private Ownership

Rule 14. Bowling balls used in the game and marked by their owners are considered private and other participants in the game are prohibited from using the same, unless the owner consents to such use.

Foul A Definition of

Rule 15. A foul is committed with no pinfall being credited to the player although the ball counts as a ball rolled, when part of the bowler's person encroaches upon or goes beyond the foul line and touches any part of the lane equipment or building during or after executing a legal delivery. A ball is in play and a foul may be called after legal delivery has been made and until the same or another player is on the approach in position to make a succeeding delivery. If the player commits a foul which is apparent to both captains or one or more members of each of the opposing teams competing in a league or tournament on the same pair of lanes where the foul is committed, or to the official scorer or a tournament official, and should the foul judge or umpire through negligence fail to see it committed or a B.T.B.A. approved automatic foul detecting device fails to record it, a foul shall nevertheless be declared and so recorded.

Deliberate Foul

Rule 16. If a player deliberately fouls to benefit by the calling of a foul, he shall be immediately disqualified from further participation in the series then in play and his place may be taken by another player. The deliberate foul shall not be allowed. A player who wilfully throws his ball into the gutter shall be immediately removed from the game and series and his place may be taken by another player. If no substitute is available to take the place of the removed player, his team shall be credited only with the pins knocked down up to the time the player was disqualified plus one tenth of his absentee score for each of the remaining frames in the game.

Foul Count as Ball Bowled

Rule 17. A foul ball shall be recorded as a ball bowled by the player, but any pins bowled when a foul is committed shall not count. When the player fouls upon delivering the first ball of a frame, all pins knocked down must be re-spotted, and only those pins knocked down by the second ball may be counted. If he bowls down all the pins with his second ball after fouling with the first, it shall be scored as a spare. When less than ten pins are bowled down on the second ball after fouling on the first, it shall be recorded as an error. A player who fouls when delivering his second ball of a frame shall be credited with only those pins bowled down with the first ball, provided no foul was committed when the first ball was delivered. When a bowler fouls during the delivery of his first ball in the tenth frame and bowls down all ten pins with his second ball (making a spare) he bowls a third ball and is credited with a spare plus the pins bowled down with the third ball. When a player fouls while delivering his third ball in the tenth frame, only those pins bowled down in delivering his first two balls shall be counted.

Other Foul Line Points

Rule 18. Wherever it is deemed necessary to determine fouls, the officials of any Local Association, upon authorisation by the Executive Committee, may require that a foul line be plainly painted on the walls, posts, division boards, or any other structure in a bowling establishment at any point on a line with the real foul line.

Protests - Provisional Roll

Rule 19. When a protest involving a foul or the legality of pinfall is entered and it cannot immediately be resolved between the two team captains, a provisional ball or frame shall be bowled by the contestant. If the protest occurs on the first delivery in a frame the player shall complete his frame and then bowl another complete frame immediately unless it involves a question of whether a bowler should receive credit for a strike or a lesser number of pins on his first delivery. In such event, the pin or pins which were protested as constituting illegal pinfall shall be re-spotted and the player required to bowl another ball. When the protest occurs on the second delivery, the player shall bowl a provisional ball against the same set-up of pins which were standing at the time, except when the protest involves a foul, in which case no provisional ball shall be necessary. A record of both scores for the frame in which a provisional delivery was made shall be maintained and the protest referred to the league's Board of Directors or the tournament's managing committee for decision. If unable to reach a decision, the local association or the B.T.B.A. can be asked for a decision upon submission of all the facts relating to the protest.

No Unreasonable Delay

Rule 20. The league or tournament officials shall allow no unreasonable delay in the progress of any game. Should any member of a team participating in a league or tournament refuse to proceed with the game after being directed to do so by the proper authorities, such game or series shall be declared forfeited.

Foul Detection

Rule 21. League and tournament officials may adopt and use B.T.B.A. approved automatic foul detecting devices and where none is available a foul line judge may be stationed so that he has an unobstructed view of the foul line.

Foul Appeal

Rule 22. No appeal shall be allowed when a foul is indicated by an approved automatic foul detecting device or is called by a foul judge, except when it is proved that the device is not working properly or there is definite evidence that the bowler did not foul. If the device becomes temporarily inoperative, the following procedures shall be used for calling fouls.

1. In tournament play, the tournament management shall assign a human foul judge or arrange for the official scorers to call foul.

2. In league play, the team captain shall call fouls or appoint someone to act as foul judge.

Failing to have the automatic foul detecting device in operation, or provide for foul line observation when it is inoperative, shall disqualify scores bowled for B.T.B.A. high score consideration

Average - Definition.

Rule 23. A bowling average is determined by dividing the actual number of pins credited to a bowler by the number of games bowled in one sanctioned league in a season.

COMPOSITE AVERAGE The average of all sanctioned leagues when a player bowls in two or more leagues. This average is determined by adding the total pins for all leagues and dividing the result by the total number of games bowled in all leagues.

HIGHEST AVERAGE - The best average in one or several leagues in which a player competes. When establishing an average in league play, a right-handed bowler must bowl right-handed at all times, similarly, a left-handed bowler must bowl left-handed at all times. Penalty - forfeiture of game

No combination of scores bowled both right and left-handed shall be used in computing an average. A new average must be established if a bowler finds it necessary to change his delivery from left to right-handed or vice versa.

Prizes - Proprietors and their Employees

Rule 24. When a sanctioned tournament is sponsored by the management of a bowling establishment and the scheduled games are bowled solely in that establishment, the owner or employees of the establishment shall be ineligible from receiving individual or all events prizes unless the tournament rules specifically provide otherwise. This shall not apply in annual championship tournaments for local associations. All other tournaments and leagues may, by rule, restrict the owner of the bowling establishment or his employees from qualifying for individual or all events prizes when the games of the league or tournament are bowled solely in the establishment with which they are associated.

PRIZE FEE LIMIT

Rule 25. The prize fee charged in any handicap or classified tournament event shall not exceed £50 per person.

The prize fee charged in any open tournament event shall not exceed £50 per person.

Any individual who participates in a tournament in which the prize fee exceeds the amount set forth in this rule, or a member who promotes such a tournament, shall be liable for suspension of membership in the B.T.B.A.

Penalty for Unfair Tactics

Rule 26. Any member of the B.T.B.A. violating the provisions of this rule as outlined below shall be liable for the penalties indicated, and anyone who is not a member of the B.T.B.A. but who has violated the provisions of this rule shall be refused membership in the B.T.B.A. until the Council of the B.T.B.A. approves his application.

a. Attempting to gain an unfair advantage. Penalty - loss of game or games where unfair advantage was secured and/or suspension of membership.

1. Directly or indirectly tampering with lanes bowling pins and /or bowling balls so they no longer meet B.T.B.A. specifications.

2. Duly misrepresenting an average either to gain a greater handicap, or qualify for a lower classification in a league or tournament.

3. By establishing an average below his ability and therefore gaining an advantage in handicap or classified competition. Penalty - loss of game or games including Prize winnings and/or suspension or membership where unfair advantage was secured.

b. Placing the game of tenpins in jeopardy of unfair criticism, by the use of disreputable tactics in connection with the game of bowling. Penalty - suspension of membership.

c. Failing to distribute team prize money in accordance with the verbal or written agreements. Penalty- suspension of membership.

d. Failing to pay fees due for participation in sanctioned league or tournament. Penalty - suspension of membership.

e. By committing an act considered by the Council of the B.T.B.A. to be conduct derogatory to the best interest of the sport. Penalty - suspension of membership.

Penalty - Use of Suspended Bowler

Rule 27. When a bowler is suspended from or denied membership in the B.T.B.A., he or she shall be ineligible to bowl or pace in any sanctioned league or tournament until re-instated by the Council of the B.T.B.A. Penalty - when a team knowingly uses a bowler who is under suspension, or has been denied membership of the B.T.B.A., it shall forfeit all games in which such player was used, and if found guilty shall be liable for suspension or membership.

Penalty - Libel or Slander

Rule 28 A bowler who libels or utters slanderous accusations against an official or officials, members or members of an association, league or team affiliated to with the B.T.B.A., which cannot be substantiated by sworn facts in the case, shall be deemed unworthy of retaining membership in the B.T.B.A.

Penalty - Deliberately Grooving Lanes

Rule 29. If in the judgement of the General Secretary of the B T B A. and the Legal Committee, a resurfacers, owner operator, manager or other employee has deliberately hollowed or grooved the lanes to form a continuous ball track within allowable surface tolerances, the B.T.B.A. may refuse to issue a Regulation Bowling Lane Certificate.

Likewise, when a manufacturer, supplier or proprietor tampers in any way with a bowling pin or its base by decreasing the radius beyond the permissible maximum tolerances in order to increase scoring, the B.T.B.A. may refuse a permit to label pins "B.T.B.A. Approved" and/or refuse to issue

a Regulation Bowling Lane Certificate.

B.T.B.A. members involved in tampering with pins or their bases or in a deliberate attempt to groove lanes shall be liable to suspension from B.T.B.A. membership.

A resurfacers who engages in this practise may have future resurfacing affidavits rejected until further notice from the General Secretary or the B.T.B.A.

Penalty - Violating Eligibility Rules

Rule 30. Any person who bowls under an assumed name, who bowls under the name of an entrant scheduled to bowl in a tournament but unable to attend, or is under suspension, or has been denied membership, any team which employs a person herein described, both the person individually and the team collectively shall forfeit their entry. All persons who were involved in the affair and found guilty may be suspended from membership of the B.T.B.A.

Penalty - Fund Shortage

Rule 31. a. When an officer of a sanctioned league or area association embezzles, defalcates, absconds, and/or misuses any funds entrusted to him, he shall be liable for indefinite suspension from membership in the B.T.B.A.

b. The officer required to make monthly verifications of the accounts of such organisations may also be liable for indefinite suspension from membership if he has been guilty of malfeasance or nonfeasance in performing this duty.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Malfeasance is defined as a deliberate act with evil intention, e.g., deliberate falsification of documents or absconding with funds. Non-feasance is simply failure to perform duties

Rule 32. When the General Secretary is advised of acts of malfeasance, he shall cause the following action to be instituted:

1. Notify the person or persons that they are suspended pending an investigation.
2. Such notification shall be sent by Registered Mail or Recorded Delivery.
3. Notification of the action shall be filed with the league or tournament officials and the local secretary, who will institute disciplinary proceedings, unless such proceedings are to be held by the Legal or Executive Committee B.T.B.A.
4. All persons convicted in a civil or criminal court of an offence connected with the sport of Tenpin Bowling will be deemed unworthy of holding membership in the B.T.B.A.

Reinstatement of membership in all cases where a suspension is imposed shall be available only upon written application to and approval by the Council of the B.T.B.A. or an appropriate committee of its members authorised to act on such application for reinstatement of membership.

Protests - Time Limit

Rule 33. Protests involving eligibility, scoring or general playing rules in sanctioned leagues and tournaments shall be governed as follows: -

LEAGUES: Any protest affecting eligibility or general playing rules must be confirmed in writing to a responsible league or association official or the B.T.B.A. not later than fifteen (15) days after the series in which the infraction occurred has been bowled. If no written protest is entered prior to the expiration of the fifteen-day period, the series must stand as bowled. Protests resulting out of competition in the final two weeks of a league's schedule must be filed within 48 hours of the concluding night of the league schedule.

TOURNAMENTS Any protest effecting eligibility or general playing rules must be confirmed in writing to a responsible tournament or area association official, or the B.T.B.A., before the tournament prize payouts are made, or no later than seventy-two (72) hours after the game in

which the infraction occurred has been bowled, whichever is the sooner. If no written protest is entered prior to the expiration of the above conditions the game or games must stand as bowled.

OBVIOUS ERRORS: Errors in scoring or errors in calculation in league or tournament play must be corrected by a responsible league or tournament official immediately upon discovery of such error. Questionable errors shall be decided upon by the League Board of Directors or the managing committee of the tournament. The managing committee of a tournament may, by rule, set a time limit for correction of errors.

Each protest under this rule must be specific in itself and this rule shall not be construed to cover a previous or similar violation.

Original Fee Only

Rule 34. Members of the B.T.B.A. may not participate in any scheme or arrangement where the scores bowled in sanctioned league or tournament play, partially or otherwise are used to determine prize winners in a supplementary contest. In addition, no member of the B.T.B.A., shall put a supplementary fee of any type or character for the purpose of having the sanctioned score or scores qualify for the prizes outside the specific league or tournament in which the score was bowled, except by authority of the General Secretary of the B.T.B.A.

Approaches - Must Not Be Defaced

Rule 35. No one shall mark or shall introduce on any part of the approach or lane any substance which will have a tendency to injure, disfigure or place the approach or lane in such a condition as to detract from the possibility of other bowlers being able to take advantage of the usual conditions. The use of such substances as aristol, talcum powder, pumice, resin, etc., on shoes; the use of soft rubber soles and heels that rub off, and in any manner alter the normal condition of the approach, are strictly prohibited.

Bowlers Appearance

Rule 36. Any member reporting under the influence of liquor or who in the opinion of the league or tournament officials is not dressed in a presentable manner will not be permitted to bowl.

Abrasives - Prohibition of

Rule 37. The use of abrasives such as, but limited to, sandpaper, steel wool and the so-called 'Scotchbrite pads' is prohibited during competition. It is permissible for bowlers to use abrasives, both prior to, and following competitions. However, once league competitions or a tournament block has begun, the provisions of the rule would apply throughout that entire session. As a result, it is not permissible to use the abrasives between each game of a particular league session or tournament block, during which only a dry towel may be used to clean the surface of the ball.

LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS



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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

All sanctioned leagues must be so organised and their activities conducted in such a manner that they comply strictly with all B.T.B.A. laws, rules and regulations, and only B.T.B.A. approved regulation equipment may be used. The lanes upon which all such games are bowled must have been certified for the current bowling season. Furthermore, the lanes must conform with B.T.B.A. specifications except where the manufacturer or equipment affecting any of these specifications has obtained approval to modify or alter one or several of the requirements from the Council on the advice and council of the B.T.B.A. Executive Committee.

The bowling pins used for B.T.B.A. sanctioned league competition must at all times bear only the name of the original manufacturer or the distribution thereof, all be marked "B.T.B.A. Approved" or A.B.C. Approved". The use of steel wool or sandpaper to remove dirt and surface splinters find/or the application of supplementary finish are permissible preservative measures. Pins that have been turned down or trimmed shall not be used in sanctioned league play. Pins on which the original labels or neck markings have been renewed, or on which substitute labels and/or neck markings have been applied, shall not be used in sanctioned league play. When in use for B.T.B.A. sanctioned league competition, all pins in each set shall be uniform in appearance including finish, labels and neck markings, reasonable wear excepted.

LEAGUE SANCTIONS

Section 1. Any league consisting of four or more individual participants or teams, organised for the purpose of bowling the game of Tenpin, according to a prearranged schedule, may apply for a regular sanction provided all eligible teams and members thereof affiliate with the B.T.B.A., and pay the B.T.B.A. dues.

A league sanction shall entitle all members to compete for individual team high score awards provided in the case of teams, that each team in the league is similarly organised and that every B.T.B.A. requirement has been complied with when a claim for high score award recognition is submitted.

When special contests limited to members of a league granted a sanction are held, and such contests are conducted by the league under the rules governing sanctioned league or tournament bowling, high score recognition will be extended automatically under the same terms and conditions as outlined immediately above.

A league duly sanctioned the preceding season shall be regarded as temporarily sanctioned after the start of its current schedule for the following period:

Regular season - six weeks (42 days counting the first day of competition)

During this grace period the league will be eligible for all B.T.B.A. membership services provided that:

The lanes on which its games are played are certified.

The league sanction application, membership dues and related reports are submitted on or before the expiration of the grace period.

The grace period is for the purpose of providing protection during the times required for the league secretary to complete the sanction application, collect individual membership dues and file the application and fees with the General Secretary of the B.T.B.A.

Under the same conditions, any league not sanctioned the previous season or a league which organises late in the season may apply to the B.T.B.A. for such temporary protection.

Definition and Qualifications

Rule 101. a. Any league consisting of four or more teams, or singles leagues consisting of four or more individual participants bowling the game of Tenpins according to a prearranged schedule, shall be defined as a league, regardless of whether prizes of any character are offered. All such games of Tenpins must actually be bowled and conducted in the strict compliance with the following playing rules, if they are to be considered official in league play. Such league if sanctioned shall bowl its schedule regularly as may be decided by the members. It shall at all times foster the spirit of good fellowship and sociability among its members and associated leagues. It shall furthermore provide for the designation of an annual team and individual champion by the games bowled under its auspices.

Three consecutive games shall be played by each team every time the league is scheduled to bowl, unless otherwise decided by the league's Board of Directors. The Board must also determine the manner in which all league games shall be decided. (Note: Leagues generally decide to award games on basis of games won and lost according to a point system. In the four point system one point is awarded to winning team for each game bowled, and an extra point going to the team recording the greatest total number of pins for the series)

Singles Leagues

b. Any group of four or more individuals organising to bowl a schedule of games of Tenpin with standings based on the outcome of games bowled between individual players shall be defined as a singles league. Such groups shall apply for a regular league sanction.

Mixed Leagues

c. A mixed league shall be defined to include the following groups:

1. Leagues in which all or a portion of the teams are made up of men and women participants.
2. A league in which one or more teams are made up entirely of women bowlers, with the remaining teams made up of men.
3. Leagues which include both adults and junior bowlers, either male or female

Travelling League

d. A league conducting its schedule at establishments located in the jurisdiction of different associates (travelling leagues) must file sanction application through the associations decided upon by the majority of its team captains. The association accepting the league application shall:

- (1) Collect B.T.B.A. dues and the amount of dues arranged by the area association in whose jurisdiction the members' home lanes are located where applicable.
- (2) Remit to the B.T.B.A. dues for all members, if applicable
- (3) No dues are required to be collected from a member in possession of a current individual membership card.

League Championship Play-off

e. When a tie occurs for the championship or league, or the league bowls a split season, an additional series of at least three games shall be bowled to determine the champion. This series of games shall be conducted under the same conditions and rules governing league play during the regular season, unless the league adopts special play-off rules prior to the start of the season. The secretary of the league shall notify the establishment and arrange to have lanes available. When more than two teams are involved in the championship play-off and the league has not adopted special rules, total pins in a three-game series shall determine the

champion. Such champions and other winners together with the final averages and standings of the teams and individual members of the league shall be submitted to the secretary of the local association at the termination of the league schedule.

Constitution and Rules

Rule 102. a. Such bowling leagues shall have a set of rules which provide for its regular activities. These rules shall provide for a Board of Directors, and for the election of its officers by the Board of Directors, who shall prescribe the duties of its officers, except in those leagues whose rules provide for the direct election of officers and the adoption of rules by the General Membership. Every league shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined, they are the only Executive post's that may be performed by one person.

Two members of an immediate family may not be President and Treasurer of any one league nor may they co-sign for withdrawals from the league account.

b. The President shall preside at all meetings of the league's Board of Directors, and league members. He shall arrange to have the Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer set up an account in a recognised banking institution the name of the league, with the signature of at least two officers required for all withdrawals. He shall post a monthly statement in the establishment where the league bowls, showing the number of weeks bowled, total receipts and disbursements to date, unless such data is furnished monthly to each team captain. He shall further retain the monthly financial statements until the league's prize fund has been distributed at the end of the league's season. He shall also furnish each team captain with a copy of the league rules and shall post a schedule for the season in the establishment

He shall arrange to have a prize list, together with the, rules governing the eligibility of teams and individuals for special prize consideration as agreed at the Annual General Meeting of the league, posted on the notice board not later than 5 weeks after the beginning date of the schedule, .

EDITOR'S NOTE

Verify means that the President will not only determine the amount of money on deposit but will ascertain that this agrees with the amount that should be deposited.

Duties of League Secretary

c. In addition to duties specified by the Board of Directors of the league, the secretary must keep an accurate record of all individual and team scores and must post weekly averages and team standings or position, which must be available to all members, at least until end of following week's schedule, unless such data is furnished weekly to each team captain, each member or both. He shall furnish the local association secretary with a copy of the standings sheet when requested by the association listing the names, with full first names of all bowlers who competed in the league during the season. showing the number of games, total pinfall and average. He shall collect all membership fees where applicable and remit same together with the sanction application to the B.T.B.A. within 42 days after the opening date of the league schedule. He shall also collect the prescribed membership fee from each new player who joins the league during the season, unless the new player has paid the membership fee previously, and remit the same to the B.T.B.A. within seven days. Failure on the part of the league secretary to comply with the provisions of this rule or fulfil other duties as may be prescribed by the league's Board of Directors, shall be cause for removal from office and/or suspension from membership in the B.T.B.A.

Duties of League Treasurer

d. He shall establish an account in a recognised banking institution, in accordance with rule 102(A). The final statement shall show all income, interest, or other revenue from deposited or invested money.

Management

Rule 103. The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the league and be comprised of the officers and the team captains. Another team member may be designated by the team captain to act as the team's representative at Board of Directors meetings. Each member of the board shall be entitled to only one vote, whether he is a team representative, officer or both.

The Board of Directors must decide upon all disputes, complaints or protests relating to any controversy or violation in the league involving any B.T.B.A., local association or league rule. It is within its authority to adopt, enforce or revoke any of its own league rules, but rules must not be inconsistent with the rules of the B.T.B.A., and its local association. The Board of Directors may declare forfeited or null and void any protested or disputed game or games, and decide upon any matter arising in its league. The decision of the Board shall be final, except where an appeal is made to the officer of the Local Association or the B.T.B.A. for further consideration. The Board of Directors shall adopt league rules prior to the start of the season which are not inconsistent with the rules of the B.T.B.A. After adoption of the league rules they may only be changed by the unanimous decision of the Board of Directors present and entitled to vote.

Teams - When Sanctionable

Rule 104. A bowling team is defined as a group consisting of two or more persons formed for the purpose of bowling in league and/or tournament competition. The members of such teams must necessarily become a member of the B.T.B.A. through the local association from which the team originates to be eligible to bowl in a league or tournament granted a regular sanction. It must govern itself by rules and regulations not inconsistent with those of the B.T.B.A. local association, league or tournament association through which it applies for membership.

Authority of Team Captain in League Play

Rule 105. A team captain is defined as a qualified member of a team existing in conformity with the rules and regulations of the B.T.B.A. He is the team's representative, and responsible for the conduct and attendance of his team in all league play. Providing no league, local association or B.T.B.A. rule is violated by him he shall continue in this capacity as long as he is acceptable to the league's Board of Directors. It is within the captain's authority to remove any player permanently from his team, if he is able to furnish good and sufficient reason to the league's Board of Directors.

The team captain shall be responsible for the weekly payment of the league fees. There shall be no arrears unless authorised by the league's Board of Directors. Where the Board of Directors so decide, a team or team member may be expelled from the league if either fails to pay any indebtedness for which he is responsible. The team captain shall divide all league prizes according to verbal or written agreements. Where disputes arise because of unavoidable resignations of any member, decisions may be rendered by the Board of Directors of the league, if so demanded.

Bowlers - Qualifications

Rule 106. In order to be eligible for B.T.B.A. membership a person must be qualified under the rules of the B.T.B.A. and a member of an affiliated association, organised and existing in conformity with the laws, rules and regulations of the B.T.B.A. Such bowler may be a member of one or more bowling teams.

LEAGUE PLAY

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

When and How Called

Rule 107. Teams shall be composed of the number of players fixed by the rules of the particular league in which the competition is held. Before the series is started, the captain of

each team shall enter the names of his players in his score book. Play shall begin in accordance with a previously arranged schedule.

Absentees

Rule 108. A legal line-up in league play is defined as three or more eligible players in five-person team leagues, two or more eligible players in either three-, or four-person team leagues and one eligible player in two-person team leagues. Where a league authorises floating or roving substitutes, it may, by rule, require three bowlers from the teams current roster for a legal line-up in five-person team leagues, two in three or four-person team leagues and one in two-person team leagues. When a lesser number is present to start any game of a series at the time scheduled by the league, the game shall be forfeited.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The matter of eligibility must be established by league rule. In the final analysis, however, a bowler is "eligible" if his score is to be counted in deciding league games whether he is a substitute or regular player and he is in possession of a current membership card.

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.

Members of the team forfeiting a game or games under the provisions of this rule shall be allowed to bowl along with the team winning for forfeiture and have scores bowled included in league records to qualify for all league and B.T.B.A. individual awards.

The Board of Directors of a league may adopt rules providing for the use of blind scores and handicaps in deciding league games. Blind scores may be used only when a legal line-up is present.

Tardy Players

Rule 109. Leagues may adopt rules pertaining to tardy players. Any player who arrives late may be permitted to bowl after a game is started, but he shall begin play and his score shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled by the team if provision for such instance has not been made previously by the league.

Any player who arrives during a game and is permitted by league rules to bowl that entire game, or who finishes his final games before his team mates or opponents, shall forfeit any claim for B.T.B.A. high score recognition for that particular game, but where the majority of the members of a league so agree they may count such score in deciding the contested game and in the recorded averages.

Substitution

Rule 110. After a game has started no changes shall be made in the order of players during such game. The captain, however may replace any of his players by a qualified substitute at any time during a game, unless the league has adopted specific rules governing the use of players and substitutes prior to the start of the season, in which case the league rule shall apply. In mixed leagues when a substitute or replacement is made, the substitute or replacement must be of the same sex as the original player, unless the league has made other provisions in its league rules. When a substitution is made during a game, the score of such game shall be credited to the starting player. A player once removed from a game cannot return to bowl in the same game. Scores bowled through the efforts of more than one individual player shall not qualify for any B.T.B.A. or league individual high score awards. When a player is unable to complete a game because of disability, injury or emergency, and a qualified substitute 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 one-tenth of his blind score for each of the remaining frames in the game. The frames bowled shall not be used in determining the bowler's average.

However, a league may, by rule, require its secretary to maintain averages so that each

individual average reflects only the actual frames bowled.

(Editor's Note: See Rule 122 for provisions governing transferring of team membership within the league.)

Forfeiture and Recognition of Games

Rule 111. A team which does not present its full membership and refuses to bowl with less than its full personnel 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 game was actually contested, 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 a rule requiring the individual and/or team to bowl their average less a designated number of pins (the amount to be determined by 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 B.T.B.A. will recognise any score bowled by one or more teams in any one league granted an official sanction. The score likewise shall count for league averages and special prizes, unless the league has adopted rules prior to the start of the season which will not allow the scores to be used for these purposes.

What Constitutes a Game

Rule 112 The bowling of ten (10) complete frames on the pair of lanes on which the game was started shall constitute an official game, excepting that the league officers may authorise the completion of a game and series on another pair of certified lanes when equipment failure on the starting lanes would delay the normal progress of the series. An interrupted 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 game of league play. Teams scheduled to bowl against each other must be in direct competition on adjacent lanes and shall then and there oppose each other, except when a forfeit is declared. No team or individual team member will be permitted to bowl against scores, nor will any individual be permitted to bowl league games before or after the match.

League Series

Rule 113. In league play the first game of a series shall be started on the lane on which the team is scheduled. Succeeding games shall be started on the lane on which a team has finished the preceding game. Where a league so decides, however, each game may be bowled on a different pair of lanes provided a full game is bowled on each pair.

Order of Bowling

Rule 114. The members of the contesting teams shall successively, and in regular order, bowl one frame on one lane, and for the next frame alternate and use the other lane, so alternating each frame until five frames are bowled on each lane, completing the game. Each player shall bowl two balls in every frame, except where he shall make a strike or player strikes or spares in the tenth frame. No pins may be conceded and only those actually knocked down may be counted. Every frame must be completed at the time the player is bowling in his regular order. When a player shall make a strike in the tenth frame, he shall then be permitted to bowl two more balls on the same lane. When a player shall make a spare in the tenth frame, he shall be permitted to bowl one more ball on the same lane.

Bowlers in Corresponding Position

Rule 115. When any question arises as to who of any two bowlers bearing corresponding positions in the line-up of the opposing teams shall bowl first, it shall be incumbent upon the bowler on the right to do so. In the event the pins are not yet set up for the bowler on the right, the bowler on the left must wait until his opponents pins are properly set.

League Tie Games - How Decided

Rule 116. When a tied game occurs, each of the two teams involved in the tie shall be credited in the standings with having won one-half game, and with the loss of one half game. There

shall be no roll-off of the tie. In leagues using the point award system, when a tie occurs for any point each of the two teams involved shall be credited with having won one-half the value of the point or points normally awarded. There shall be no roll-off of the tie.

Postponements

Rule 117. All league games must be bowled as scheduled unless they are postponed or pre-bowled by authorisation of the League's Board of Directors or a committee appointed for that purpose. In the event of a dispute, the League's Board of Directors shall determine what shall be sufficient cause to grant a postponement but in no case shall a league adopt legislation which would have the effect of establishing an absolute no postponement rule. All postponed/pre-bowled games shall be requested of the league secretary, or in his absence any of the other league officers, not less than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled time of the match, and within the same time limit, the opposing team captain must be notified of this request, by the captain of the team seeking a postponement all the foregoing to apply except where postponements are granted for emergencies. Leagues must grant postponements for emergencies when a team fails to appear for its scheduled match due to reasons beyond its control and the secretary and opposing team captain notified prior to commencement of bowling. When a postponement has been granted, the league secretary shall immediately notify the establishment of the change in the schedule, and shall arrange to have a pair of lanes available which are available for the use under this rule. The captains of the teams involved in a postponed match shall agree to a date for having the postponed series. If within one week from the date the match was originally scheduled the two captains cannot agree upon a date, it shall be set by the secretary of the league who shall notify both team captains of the date and time. This notification shall be given at least seven (7) days prior to the date set. No postponed games shall be bowled after the final night of the schedule of competition for position standing unless the outcome of a postponed game or series shall have a bearing in deciding the leagues prize list. Postponed games in this category must be bowled not later than seven days after the final night of scheduled competition for team position standings. Postponed games must be bowled under the same conditions and rules governing sanctioned league play between the teams involved, which shall then and there oppose each other. The games shall be bowled on the originally scheduled pair of lanes. If this pair is not available. the league secretary may authorise the teams to use another pair, providing they are used by the league in bowling its schedule. If the lanes normally used by the league in bowling its schedule are not available, the league's board of directors may authorise the bowling of postponed or pre-bowled games on another pair of certified lanes even though these lanes are not used by the league in its regular schedule. Pre-bowled games shall be given the same consideration and be subject to the same conditions as apply in the case of postponed games. In bowling postponed or pre-bowled games in handicap leagues, the handicap as of the date the games are bowled shall be used.

Failure To Bowl When Scheduled

Rule 118. When one of two teams scheduled to bowl against each other fails to appear and a postponement has not been requested, the games shall be declared forfeited; except when its failure to appear is caused by an emergency situation over which the team has no control. In those cases, the league shall re-schedule the match under the rules which apply to postponements. Any dispute arising through application of this rule may be appealed to the local association or the B.T.B.A.

Team Bowling Alone

Rule 119. The team that is present must play all games as if actually contested in compliance with rule 111.

Defaulting More Than Once Or Refusing To Bowl

Rule 120. When a team or individual defaults or refuses to bowl more than once in a season, or refuses to continue bowling, other than due to injury, disability, or emergency, such a team or individual may be expelled from the league, and in addition shall be liable for suspension from membership in the B.T.B.A.

Withdrawal of Team

Rule 121. When a team or individual withdraws without giving a satisfactory reason, or is expelled from the league for sufficient cause it forfeits its franchise fees if any, and in addition shall be liable for suspension from membership in the B.T.B.A.

Transferring Team Membership

Rule 122. a. A player who has competed with a team in a league and whose scores have counted in deciding games may transfer membership to another team in the league during the season provided:

1. The captain of the team with which the player last bowled consents to his release.
2. Two-thirds of the league's team captains agree to the transfer.
3. A player so transferred may not return to any team with which he previously bowled during the balance of the season.

This provision shall not apply to any league which adopts a specific rule to govern the transfer of players or substitutes within itself prior to the start of the season. Under no condition may a player be allowed to compete with more than one team in the same league for the regularly scheduled games each week.

CLOSED LEAGUE DEFINITION

A closed league is defined as one in which membership is drawn exclusively from a civic, fraternal or military organisation, plant, company or church and similar organisations as may, within the discretion of the General Secretary of the B.T.B.A. meet these requirements.

Bowling - League Games

Rule 123. In all league games, the scores shall be recorded on a score sheet attached to a scoreboard or table in plain view of all opposing players and the public witnessing such games. Every frame bowled by each player shall be recorded. All contesting teams in the league shall also record the scores of each game in a scorebook to be kept by the team captain or someone appointed by him for this purpose. The score sheet which shows every frame bowled shall be the official record, and the scorebook of the league must agree with such score sheet at the conclusion of such games. After the score book is verified and signed by the opposing team captains, it then becomes the league's official record for the season. It may be changed by the league secretary only where an obvious error appears, when an error is made in calculation or when it is apparent that such record does not agree with the original score sheet. The league's Board of Directors shall decide on any questionable errors in scoring or calculation, both manually and on the computer printout.

Scorers

Rule 124. No change shall be made in scorers during a game unless the scorer is incompetent, noisy, interferes in any way with the members of any team, or is found to be interested, directly or indirectly, in any bet or wager on any game or series, when he shall be immediately removed upon demand of either team captain. Refusal to remove a scorer upon demand shall be sufficient ground for sustaining a protest of the game in which such scorer served.

TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS



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Definition and Qualifications

Rule 301. A bowling tournament is defined as an arranged contest between teams, individuals, or a combination of both in which members of the B.T.B.A. are eligible. A tournament can be sponsored by a tournament association or one or more individuals. Non-members may participate on payment of a registration fee but will not be eligible for high score awards. Any tournament consisting of four or more teams or singles tournaments consisting of four or more individual participants shall be eligible to apply for sanction with the B.T.B.A.

It shall provide in its rules for the designation of annual champions of the events in which individuals are entered, and total pins shall decide such championships and other prize winners in the various events unless another system based on pinfall is otherwise provided for in the tournament rules. When two or more events are held, an all events championship may be determined based on the total points scored in these events. Tournament champions shall hold such title until the next tournament is held. Such champions and other prize winners shall be notified to the General Secretary of the B.T.B.A. at the conclusion of the tournament after such Championship have been determined. All squads must consist of four or more teams or individuals.

When tournament prize winners are determined by using an handicap system, the handicap must be based on a known average or the estimated ability of a bowler prior to the start of competition.

Management

Rule 302. The Managing Committee or Board of Directors of the tournament must decide upon all disputes, complaints or protests relating to any claim, controversy or violation in the tournament involving any B.T.B.A. or tournament rule. It shall have the authority to hear, and the power to decide, proper appeals from the decision of the tournament secretary or any tournament employee. The Committee or Board has the authority to adopt, enforce or revoke any of its own tournament rules as may be found necessary to conduct a tournament successfully when not inconsistent with the rules of the B.T.B.A., provided such rules are submitted to and approved by the B.T.B.A. prior to their publication on the tournament entry form or publicity material. The decision of the Committee or Board shall be final except when an appeal is made to the B.T.B.A. for its further consideration.

Strict Compliance Of All Rules

Rule 303. Such tournament and the teams and individuals competing therein must conduct and play all their games in strict compliance with the rules and regulations governing such games, as adopted by the B.T.B.A.

Authority of Secretary

Rule 304. The tournament secretary shall be the authorised representative of the Board of Directors or Managing Committee when either is not in session; He shall have supreme power as to the players who are to bowl in the tournament whether originally entered or those who bowl as authorised substitutes. If accepted, each player must bowl each event under his own full name, and then only at the time and date designated by the tournament secretary. The tournament secretary shall also have the power to decide upon any other matters pertaining to the operation of the tournament when not inconsistent with its own tournament rules or any provision of the B.T.B.A. constitution, Rules and Regulations.

Authority of Team Captain in Tournament Play

Rule 305. The team captain is his team's representative in all matters pertaining to behaviour,

eligibility, line-up, and compliance with all tournament rules when entered in a tournament. He is responsible to the tournament secretary for the conduct of his team, and receives in trust any prizes his team may win, which all the team members are expected to share in accordance with the members previous understanding. The acceptance of the entry of a team by the secretary of a tournament constitutes an agreement by the team captain on behalf of his team to abide by all laws, playing rules and regulations prescribed by the B.T.B.A. tournament association. The captain or his authorised representative may furthermore, authorise the replacement of those whose names are in the entry form and are unable to attend or compete in the tournament at the scheduled time. It is the captain who determines who may bowl on his team in the team event of any tournament. No team may remove the captain without his consent once the team is entered in the tournament provided he has violated no rules and appears when scheduled to bowl. After the closing date of tournament entries, the team captain may remove a player whose name is shown on the entry form only upon the approval of the majority of the members of the team. When the captain replaces a player originally entered in the team event, he shall give ample notification to the player being replaced. If the player to be removed has paid his own entry fee, it must be returned, except that any indebtedness may be withheld. When a captain requests a replacement in the two-person and/or individual event it must be understood that the individual originally entered and whose name appears in the tournament schedule must agree to being replaced in these events, or should he fail to appear when scheduled, the captain or his appointee may make such replacement in order to realise fully on the amount paid for entry fees.

Averages

Rule 306. When a bowler has more than one average, the individual average is used to determine the handicap or classification of the bowler or his team, one of the following methods shall be selected to arrive at an average for the tournament

- a. The highest average based on a minimum of 12 games.
- b. A composite average.
- c; A composite average, provided it is not more than five pins below the highest average maintained in a league in which the bowler has competed in at least 12 games.

Any tournament association may, at its option, require that the entering average, based on either the high or composite system, shall not be more than five pins below the same type of average for the previous season.

It shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his average in handicap or classified tournaments, whether originally submitted by the bowler, his team captain or others.

Failure to use the proper average may disqualify the score, if the submitted average is lower than actual average thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap.

Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the actual average.

Individual averages which are used to determine the handicap or classification of a bowler must be based on a minimum of twelve (12) games in one league, unless otherwise specified in the tournament rules.

Type of Competition

Rule 307. Teams shall be composed of the number of players fixed by the rules of the particular tournament association in which competition is restricted.

Tournament Dates

Rule 308. When the dates have been established and announced for the annual tournament conducted by the B.T.B.A. and/or local associations, the secretary of the local association in whose jurisdiction the events are scheduled, may recommend withholding a sanction for all other tournaments when their closing date for entries is less than thirty days prior to or fifteen days after the closing date for entries to the B.T.B.A. and/or local tournament.

Closing Dates for Entries - All Tournaments

Rule 309. a. Entry closing date in advance of tournament. When the date for closing of entries is in advance of the opening date of the tournament, it must be sufficiently in advance of the opening date to notify individual entrants and/or team captains of their scheduled time and date. The tournament management must prepare a schedule or post a complete list of entrants at the tournament site.

b. Entry closing date to last squad. When the date for closing entries is set prior to the time the last squad is scheduled, the tournament management shall post in a conspicuous place in the establishment a notice showing:

1. The number of entries to date. As entries are accepted the entry forms must be numbered consecutively and the entry number must appear with the contestant's name, whenever current or final results are posted.

2. Ratio of prizes to tournament entries (at least 1 to 30 if prize money is charged).

3. A complete list of all entrants to be kept current and indicating scores bowled by each entrant. This list shall be retained and available for inspection during the entire tournament and for thirty (30) days thereafter.

4. A posted schedule kept current at all times.

5. The exact time of day the last squad is scheduled to start.

6. The exact time for closing entries. This date shall be kept current as of six o'clock each evening. It is also required that a complete prize list be similarly posted within one hour after entries have been closed.

No tournament secretary shall accept any additional entries for any event after the closing date of entries for the tournament under penalty of suspension until reinstated by the Council of the B.T.B.A.

Designation of Fees

Rule 310. a The management of any sanctioned tournament association must, in all cases, designate fees separately on the entry form and poster as follows:

Prize Fee (if charged)

Total Entry, per individual, per event.

The tournament application form however must show:

Prize Fee

Bowling Fee

Expense Fee

Donations and/or levies, per person per event.

The entire "prize fee", if collected, must be returned to participants in the event or division of an event for which entry was made on a ratio of at least one prize for each 30 entries, except all events where at least one prize for each 40 entries shall be paid. When there are 100 or more entries in an event or a division of an event, and prize money is charged, first place shall not exceed 40 per cent of the total amount of the prize fund and second position shall be equal to at least one-half of first place. The balance of the prizes shall be graduated with last place paying at least the amount of the prize fee payment.

The "bowling fee" shall not be in excess of the prevailing league or open play rate, per line, in the establishment where the tournament is held.

The "tournament expense fee" shall be used to help defray the operating costs.

Also, other collections to qualify for participation in the tournament such as any donations to charity, subscriptions or banquet fees may be authorised by the General Secretary.

Optional Collection of Prize Fees

b. Participants in tournaments may be charged an optional prize fee for an all event contest when two or more events are conducted. In addition, an optional prize fee may be charged tournament participant for a special feature, such as high single game performance or best two out of three games in a series, under the following conditions:

(1) The All events prize fee shall be limited to the amount designated by the Executive Committee of the B.T.B.A. (Currently £10).

(2) The prize fee for the special feature shall be limited to the sum designated by the Executive Committee of the B.T.B.A. (Currently £10).

(3) There shall be only one special feature in an event or a division of an event of the tournament

Distribution of prizes shall comply with the formula prescribed for payment of regular position prizes and the ratio of return to entrants shall be at least one to twenty.

NOTE: All games of an event or all games of all the events of a tournament may not be used for a special feature.

All Events

Rule 311. When a tournament includes two or more events or when two or more tournaments are conducted under the same management and within the jurisdiction of the area association, scores may be combined in determining all events prize winners. The all events fee, if charged, must be paid prior to the advertised closing date for entries or before the participant bowls any of the events, whichever comes sooner. Tournament management shall be required to indicate in the schedule or post at the tournament site the names of all such players who are eligible to qualify for all events prizes. Where a trophy or award, excluding cash awards, is made for the all overall winner, the bowler who places first in the all events shall be entitled to the trophy or award regardless of whether he has paid the optional prize fee. However in such cases the trophy or award (excluding cash) must not be purchased from the optional fees paid in to the all-events prize fund by its participants

No Fees Returned

Rule 312. After entries have been received, and the dates assigned by the tournament secretary are not refused by the team or individual entrant prior to preparation of the schedule, no fees shall be refunded.

Entry Conditions May Not Change

a. Conditions under which entries are accepted may not be changed or modified after the tournament starts. This includes entry fee charges and the rules governing the competition.

Free or Reduced Entries

b. The tournament management may not provide, or arrange to provide, any kind of free or reduced entry that is not fully advertised in the tournament programme. When a free entry is made available an amount equal to the prize fee must be placed in the tournament prize fund.

Notification of Schedule

Rule 313. Notification shall be given to the person filing entry in writing or by printed schedule as to the time and date scheduled. No tournament secretary may indicate in the schedule the word "partner" or "reserved" or similar term in lieu of any team or individual.

Tardy Players.

Rule 314. Bowling shall begin in accordance with a previously arranged schedule. Any player or team arriving late shall begin play with the score counting beginning with the frame then being bowled. If a team refuses to start because a full line-up is not present they shall forfeit all games which they decline to bowl at the discretion of the tournament secretary. No absentee scores shall be permitted and a bowler must bowl with, on the same lanes, and at the same time his team bowls. A bowler who misses one frame or more, by not being present and ready to bowl when it is his turn shall not be credited with any pins for any frames missed.

Scheduled Position

Rule 315. No entrant shall change his position in any team line-up after he has been checked on to the lanes to bowl. If a change in the line-up is desired it must be made at the office of the tournament secretary at least thirty minutes prior to the time said entrant is scheduled to bowl.

Who May Bowl

Rule 316. The receipt of an entry in writing and its acceptance in any tournament by the secretary for one or more events shall regulate the number of players who shall participate. Substitutions and replacements may, however, be made in accordance with the provisions of Rules 317 and 318. The entry form shall contain the names of the players entered and the necessary entry fees must be in the hands of the tournament secretary prior to the closing date of entries for the tournament.

Replacements

Rule 317. No one may bowl in a sanctioned tournament except those originally entered or such replacements who may be authorised by the captain of a team or his appointee. The team captain may make a replacement in the team event according to rule 305. If a duly entered and scheduled entrant is unable to bowl when scheduled in the two-person and individual events and will sign a replacement affidavit, a person qualified to bowl in the event under the tournament rules may be named to take his place. Such affidavit must be presented to the office of the tournament secretary at least thirty minutes prior to the time the entrant is scheduled. If a replacement request is made too late to secure the affidavit prior to bowling the scheduled games in question the tournament secretary may, at his discretion, furnish replacement affidavit blanks, and allow a replacement to be made in accordance with a team captain's authority. A replacement may be made in the all events providing the replacement is made before the original entrant or his replacement has bowled in the tournament.

Substitutions - Game Already in Progress

Rule 318. After a game has started, no changes shall be made in the order of the players, except that the captain may replace any of his players by another qualified substitute at any time if permitted by the tournament rules. When a substitution is made during a game, the score of such game shall be credited to the starting player.

A player once removed from a game cannot return to bowl in the same game.

Scores bowled through the effort of more than one individual player shall not qualify for any B.T.B.A. or tournament individual high score awards nor shall the score be included in the all events totals.

In doubles events, substitutions may be permitted but a player once removed cannot return to the line-up for the balance of the competition. No substitutes may be made in a singles event except that in elimination or match game tournaments where two or more games or blocks of games are bowled, substitutions may be permitted at the discretion of the tournament management. The player removed may not return for the balance of the competition.

Bowler's Responsibility

Rule 319. It is understood that the bowler himself must ascertain personally from his local association or the B.T.B.A whether the league or tournament has been sanctioned. The excuse that the bowler was in ignorance of the fact that the league or tournament had not been sanctioned will not be accepted. The B.T.B.A. cannot give advice or help to bowlers who participate in non-sanctioned tournaments and then incur problems with the Tournament Organisers.

What Constitutes a Game

Rule 320. A natural pair of lanes shall be used in each game of tournament play. The bowling of ten (10) complete frames on the pair of lanes on which the game was started shall constitute an official game, excepting that the tournament officials may authorise the completion of a game and series on another pair of certified lanes when equipment failure on the starting would delay the normal progress of the series. An interrupted games and series which cannot be completed on the same date must be resumed from the point of interruption.

Tournament Series

Rule 321. In tournament play, the first game of a series shall be started on the lane on which the team or individual is scheduled. Succeeding games shall be started on the lane on which the team or individual has finished the preceding game unless each complete game is bowled on a different pair of lanes

Order Of Bowling

Rule 322. The members of the contesting teams, two-person and individual entrants shall successively and in regular order bowl one frame on one lane, and for the next frame alternate and use the other lane, so alternating each frame until five frames are bowled on each lane to complete the game. Each player shall bowl two balls in every frame, except where he shall make a strike, or player strikes or spares in the tenth frame. No pins may be conceded and only those actually knocked down may be counted. Every frame must be completed at the time the player is bowling in his regular order. When a player makes a strike in the tenth frame, he shall then be permitted to bowl two more balls on the same lane on which he bowled the strike. When a player makes a spare in the tenth frame, he shall be permitted to bowl one ball on the same lane on which the spare was made. Normally, only one double team is scheduled on each lane and both members of the team start on the same lane. This order of bowling may be changed, however, when a tournament schedules three doubles teams on a pair of lanes as part of its normal scheduling pattern. In that case, the lead-off man of each team will start on one lane and the anchor man on the alternate lane. Players will alternate lanes after each frame. Succeeding frames shall be played on the lane on which a player finished the preceding game unless each complete game is bowled on a different pair of lanes.

Team Bowling Alone

Rule 323. When players entered in the team, two-person or individual event of a tournament are scheduled alone on a pair of lanes, they must, nevertheless bowl any and all games to be bowled as though they were actually contested. Each entrant must have completed his frame on one lane before the player bowling as lead-off shall commence his next frame on the adjoining lane.

This rule shall apply to all tournaments except those which by rule schedule each team alone on a pair of lanes and permit the members to follow each other immediately in order on the alternate lanes. When this option is used, none of the team scores shall qualify for the competitive team awards issued by the B.T.B.A.

Pacers Permitted

Rule 324. Team or individuals may pace on the same pair of lanes with a team or individual competing in a sanctioned tournament, to provide and maintain equality of competitive conditions.

Tournament Tie Scores - How Decided

Rule 325. a. In case of a tie for the team, two-person individual or all events championship in a tournament, it shall be optional with the managing committee or Board of Directors to have a play-off or declare co-champions, except as otherwise provided in 'b' of this Rule. In the event co-champions are declared the cash prize, if any, for the positions affected are to be equally divided and the tournament association required to supply such additional medals or other awards it makes to champions, which are emblematic of co-champions, from a fund other than the prize fund. At least three games shall be played in deciding all ties, except in match game or elimination tournament, where the number of games or frames shall be determined by the tournament management. The team or individual making the greatest number of pins in playing off such tie, shall be entitled to the first prize allowed for such contest, and if the tie is in the five-person team, the two-person team or the individual contest, or for the first prize in the all events prize fund, such winning team or individual shall be entitled to the championship and medal or other awards offered for such contest. The team or individual making the next greatest number of pins in playing off such tie shall be entitled to the second prize, and so on. Any and all ties other than for first prize and position shall be decided by the secretary.

b. When multiple participation is permitted in a tournament and one or more bowlers are members of the team tied for the championship, the following procedure shall apply in conducting the play-offs for the championship.

1. If two teams are tied, and the same person or persons are duplicated on both teams, co-champions may be declared. Otherwise, only those members not duplicated on the team shall bowl a three-game series with total pins deciding championship

2. If more than two teams are tied for the championship and there is a duplication of personnel on any of the teams involved there shall be no play-off and co-champions shall be declared. If there is no duplication of personnel on the teams tied for the championship it shall be optional to have a play-off or declare co-champions.

Bowlers Tournament Equipment

Rule 326. Each five-person team must have at least three bowling balls to use in bowling scheduled games, each two-person team must have at least two bowling balls to use in bowling scheduled games and each individual must have a bowling ball available for his exclusive use to bowl his scheduled individual event games. Should this be overlooked and the proper number of balls are not provided, the contestants will lose their place on the schedule and will be scheduled at the discretion of the secretary of the tournament and at such time so as not to interfere with the regular schedule of the tournament.

Scorers in Tournaments

Rule 327. The Secretary of each sanctioned tournament is required to appoint or hire scorers to officially record any and all games bowled in the tournament. After a score has been passed by the official scorer and team captain or individual contestant, it cannot be changed except where there is an obvious error in scoring or calculation. However, the managing committee of a tournament may by rule, set a time limit for appealing any scoring errors (See rule 33).

No scorer shall be interested, directly or indirectly, in any bet or wager on any game or result. If at any time the Scorer shall be found to be so interested, is incompetent or interferes with tournament contestants, the tournament secretary may remove any such scorer.

Appeal or Protest

Rule 328. An appeal or protest regarding the decision of the foul judge, scorer, tournament official or Board of Directors may be made to and decided by the B.T.B.A. through its General Secretary who shall act for the Council of that body when not in session. He shall render a decision thereon as soon as possible after submission upon having notified the secretary of such tournament regarding the appeal or protest. Such appeal or protest shall in all cases be made in writing and signed by the party taking the appeal or making the protest, and the grounds of appeal or protest shall be briefly stated. The decision of the B.T.B.A. shall be final and binding upon all entrants and officials of such a tournament.

Multiple Participation

Rule 329. It shall be optional whether the entrants in a sanctioned tournament may participate more than once in an event provided it is duly publicised in advance. The number of times participation will be permitted must be indicated. Where more than one time participation is permitted, one or more of the following provisions must appear on the entry form and poster.

1. Five-person Team Event

Not more than three players on the same team can place more than once in the prize list for position standings.

2. Three and Four-person Team Event

Not more than two players on one team can place more than once in the prize list for position standings.

3. Two-person Team Event

In no case shall the same two-person team be permitted to place more than once in the prize list for position standings.

4. Individual Event

In no case shall the same individual be permitted to place more than once in the prize list for position standings.

5. When a bowler competes more than once his first appearance in each event shall count towards his all events score.

EDITOR'S NOTE

When more than three players bowl together more than once in a five-person team event or two players in a three- or four-person team event, the teams with which they compete shall be eligible for only one position standing prize.

Two-Person Teams - Must Bowl in Order Entered

Rule 330. If both entrants in the two-person event appear when scheduled, they must bowl as they have been entered on the original entry form. A change in line-up or pairings of two-person teams, as reported on the official entry form may be permitted if the request is filed with the Secretary of the Tournament or designated members of his staff at least 24 hours prior to the time the players involved in the change are scheduled to bowl in the two-man event. If a replacement is needed on each of two doubles teams, the two entrants present may be teamed together.

Official Prize List

Rule 331. The tournament secretary shall prepare the official prize list promptly following the closing date of entries. The prize list shall contain the number of prizes to be awarded in each event and the amount of each prize. The official prize list may be included in the official tournament schedule, but if shown separately, the secretary shall file two copies of such official prize list with the secretary of the local association prior to the opening of the tournament, and shall also post prior to the opening of the tournament a copy of the official prize list in the establishment where the tournament events will be conducted for the information of all contestants.

The above requirement shall not apply to the tournaments which provide in their rules that the prize list must be approved at the annual meeting of the board of directors or delegates of the association conducting the tournament if such meeting is held after the opening date of the tournament.

Prize Distribution and Report

Rule 332. Within thirty days after the completion of the tournament, the following post tournament requirements must be met:

1. Distribute all prizes, except when the B.T.B.A. has authorised holding up payment pending settlement of any claim or protest which affects position standings.
2. File a copy of the prize list with B.T.B.A. and the local association secretary showing the names of each prize winner, his score and prize issued to him.
3. File a copy of the financial statement with the B.T.B.A. and the local association secretary, listing all receipts and disbursements.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

All sanctioned tournaments must be so organised and their activities conducted in such a manner that they comply strictly with all B.T.B.A. laws, rules and regulations, and only B.T.B.A. approved regulation equipment may be used. The lanes upon which all such games are bowled must have been certified for the current bowling season. Further more, the lanes must conform with B.T.B.A. specifications except where the manufacturer of equipment affecting any of these specifications has obtained approval to modify or alter one or several of the requirements from the Council.

The bowling pins used for B.T.B.A. sanctioned tournament competition must at all times bear only the name and trade mark or the original manufacturer or distributor thereof, and be marked "B.T.B.A. Approved" or A.B.C./W.I.B.C. Approved". The use of steel wool or sandpaper to remove dirt and surface splinters and/or the application of supplementary finish are permissible preservative measures. Pins that have been turned down or trimmed shall not be used in sanctioned tournament play. Pins on which the original labels or neck markings have been renewed, or on which substitute labels and/or neck markings have been applied shall not be used in sanctioned tournament play.

When in use for B.T.B.A. sanctioned tournament competition, all pins in each set shall be uniform in appearance including finish, labels and neck markings, reasonable wear excepted.

Team Events Tournaments - Sanctioning Required

When a tournament, other than a B.T.B.A. Local Association Tournament, is conducted and members of the B.T.B.A. participate, a tournament sanction may be applied for at the option of the tournament management. Tournaments granted a regular or moral support sanction shall display a sanction certificate for the establishment or establishments where the tournament event or events are scheduled and shall comply with all rules governing tournaments as set forth in the B.T.B.A. Rule Book.

When such tournaments are conducted without a B.T.B.A. sanction, the participant shall not be eligible for B.T.B.A. services.

If the tournament association elects to conduct both a two-person and individual event, it may by rule make entry in both of these events a requirement to qualify for participation in either, providing the rule is printed on the entry form.

No one shall bowl more than once in any one of the events except as authorised in Rule 329.

Doubles and Singles Tournaments-Sanctioning Optional

Section 2. When a two-person event, an individual event or a combination of both are conducted and members of the B.T.B.A. participate, a tournament sanction may be applied for at the option of the tournament management.

Two-person and/or individual tournaments granted a regular sanction must comply with all rules governing tournaments as set forth in the B.T.B.A. Rule Book.

Regular Tournament Sanctions

Section 3. An individual membership card for each entrant shall be required to establish eligibility of participants in tournaments granted a regular sanction except that bowlers from countries where B.T.B.A. membership is not available may be granted entry in tournaments upon payment of appropriate registration fees. Non-members who are eligible for B.T.B.A. membership, may participate in such tournaments, by paying the appropriate dues as designated on the entry form. Eligible non-members who participate on payment of a registration fee only will not be eligible for B.T.B.A. services.

Individuals who have been suspended or expelled from the B.T.B.A. may not participate under any circumstances.

Moral Support Sanctions

Section 4. Tournaments (not leagues) operated by a single civic fraternal, benevolent, patriotic, military, service, union and religious organisation, which have annual national or regional bowling contests, will be granted moral Support sanctions, provided the entrants therein are bona fide members of said organisation and provided further that the applicant desiring sanction will guarantee that games are to be played under B.T.B.A. Rules. No combination of several fraternities or groups will be allowed in any one such tournament. Similarly tournaments which restrict participation to specific individuals or groups may be granted a moral support or regular tournament sanction at the discretion of the General Secretary of the B.T.B.A. Before a moral support sanction is granted, the Secretary of the tournament must submit to the B.T.B.A. the copy to be used on the entry form and must await its approval by the B.T.B.A. before proceeding with the printing. No consideration shall be given any application for moral support sanction unless the entry form specifies that all players entered must be certified by a responsible local official of the participating organisation as members of good standing, and that the B.T.B.A. is given definite assurance that this requirement is to be strictly enforced. Moral support sanctions will not be granted to any organisation which allows those to participate in the tournament who have been suspended from or refused membership in the B.T.B.A. Only such entrants in tournaments granted a Moral Support Sanction who have established membership in the B.T.B.A. prior to participation therein shall be qualified for B.T.B.A. high score recognition.

If any official or officials of such tournament knowingly permit non-members of such organisations to bowl therein, and this can be substantiated, the offending bowler and such official or officials shall be liable to suspension from the B.T.B.A. membership by the B.T.B.A.

A moral support sanction may also be issued to tournaments staged for the purpose of providing international competition where bowlers from nations not served by B.T.B.A. and B.T.B.A. members are competing. In such cases the B.T.B.A. members participating in the tournament shall qualify for high score recognition providing the equipment used conforms to B.T.B.A. specifications.

Match Game Championships

Section 5. When a match game between two individuals or teams is conducted by an organisation to determine a city, regional or organisational match game championship, a tournament sanction may be applied for at the option of the organisation under whose auspices the match is held. When a match is scheduled between the champions of two or three leagues, a tournament sanction may be applied for at the option of the leagues or teams concerned.

Sanctioning Requirements - All Tournaments

Section 6. The following requirements must be complied with when applying for B.T.B.A. sanction:

1. The lanes used for competition must have a current season B.T.B.A. Regulation Bowling Lane certificate posted in the establishment.
2. An application must be filed on a form made available by the B.T.B.A. (See your local association secretary or write direct to the B.T.B.A. for these forms).

3. Application must be filed with the local association under whose jurisdiction the tournament is to be held.

4. Entry form, poster, and/or tournament rules must be submitted with the sanction application. (These items should be submitted in draft form as early as possible to enable the B.T.B.A. to counsel in the event of rule violations or discrepancies prior to the printing of promotional material).

5. Competition among entrants in an event, with the exception of All Events, shall be held in the same establishment. When an event is divided into two or more tournament divisions, competing in each division must be held in the same establishment.

The General Secretary of the B.T.B.A. may refuse sanctioning of any tournament which does not comply with the B.T.B.A. rules which in his opinion misrepresents in its advertising or otherwise the value of prizes which are estimated or guaranteed or the volume of prize payments offered to the participants.

International Tournaments Abroad

Members of the B.T.B.A. not in possession of an International Licence issued by the B.T.B.A. may not participate in International Tournaments unless authorised by the General Secretary of the B.T.B.A.