

TITLE: Rule changes and your league rules

Last week, we provided you with tools to speak to the bowling center about the league contract and organizational meetings. Please click [here](#) for the second edition of July's Rules Extra.

This week, we will look at new rule changes and league rules.

If you are no longer a league officer, please forward Rules Extra to newly elected officers if you have their email address to assist them in completing their duties for the 2019-2020 season and preparing for the 2020-2021 season.

Please forward Rules Extra via email to your fellow officers and league members.



The 2020 National Convention was canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the convention was canceled, amendments requesting changes to the league or tournament rules for the 2020-2021 season have been moved forward to next year's convention.

Members may also submit additional amendments requesting changes to bylaws, league, and/or tournament rules for the 2021 USBC Convention. The amendments request must be submitted in writing to USBC Headquarters no later than Sept. 1, 2020.

There are two rule changes for the 2020-2021 season that were previously announced and become effective Aug.1. Those include:

- **Rule 400 – Youth Membership Eligibility.** Lowers the maximum age for youth membership to 18. Youth membership is available to individuals who have not reached their 18th birthday prior to Aug.1 of the current bowling season. Individuals who purchase membership in a summer league and turn 18 prior to Aug.1 will be allowed to complete the summer league.
- **Equipment Specifications – Bowling Balls.** No balance holes will be permitted. All holes drilled must be used for gripping purposes on every delivery. If a bowler does not have a thumb hole, there must be a scribed or engraved "+" symbol near the center of the palm to indicate the grip orientation. The ball must be delivered in the marked orientation (i.e. palm must cover the "+"). Bowling ball also will be allowed to have up to three ounces of static side, thumb, or finger weight and up to three ounces of top or bottom weight. To learn more about bowling ball drilling requirements, click [here](#).

The USBC board adopted the following changes to the General Playing Rules based on the authority given to them in the USBC Bylaws:

- **Rule 13 – Consent Form.** The USBC Singles Competition Prize Waiver Form and Parental Consent Form have been combined with a new document titled Consent Form. For a copy of the Consent Form, click [here](#).
- **Rule 14 – Supplemental Fees.** This rule was removed.
- **Rule 14 – Emergency Authorization.** Allows USBC to temporarily modify the General Playing, Awards, League and Tournament Rules under specific circumstances. Information on the current authorized changes are posted BOWL.com. Click [here](#).

The USBC Board also adopted a proposal to amend the USBC National Bylaws Article IV, Section E, adding a new Item 15 that gives the board the authority to temporarily amend or suspend the bylaws, state, local and affiliate bylaws and the league rules and tournament rules in cases of government-declared emergencies or disasters, pandemic, attack on the United States, or any nuclear or atomic disaster. This will be presented to the delegates at the 2021 Annual Meeting for ratification.

Adopting League Rules

Each season, a league may adopt new rules. The rules used in the previous season should be reviewed with the league board of directors or the membership, whomever adopts the rules.

Helpful Hints

Look at your league rules to determine if:

- Rules regarding the same topic are scattered throughout the list of rules. It is helpful to put similar rules together so rules about the same topic are not missed.
- Are they numbered? Easy reference to a rule helps you and the bowlers when discussing the rules.
- Does the rule state the intent clearly?
- Do they make sense?
- Is everything covered that needs to be covered? Would you know what they mean if you were new to the league?

The following list has topics the Rules Team receives calls and emails about, because the league rules are not clear. Click the links to review the information. You might find the league rules need a little more detail.

- [Entering averages](#)
- [Learn all about split seasons and the rules needed](#)
- [What about handicaps?](#)
- [Position Matches](#)
- [Pre-bowling and postponements](#)



Busted, Plausible, or Confirmed:

Myth #2: A quorum is one more than half.

Myth #21: Handicap fully equalizes competition.

[Get the answers to these and other bowling myths.](#)

Want to be part of Mythbusters? Send your bowling myth to **Rules@bowl.com**.