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Bowling leagues are as unique as the bowlers themselves, and each league has their own rules that are specific to the group of individuals that make up the league.

However unique a league might be, there still needs to be structure. The PBA League Bowler Certification program has put together this template as a guide to setting up the rules for your league so that you may have a basis for managing your league season.

There are several options within many of the rules listed in this template. These options are shown as a choice listed in a red bracket [ ], or if a rule has several variations it will have those choices listed as “OPTIONAL”.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Leagues may also choose to add rules or variations other than those listed in this template, this document does not constitute the only options available. Anything in this document is open to interpretation, subject to change and may be updated. Keep in mind that all rules must be voted on and approved by the league membership.

Once all rules have been voted on and approved by league membership you can use this template to print your final league rules for distribution to each team. Simply add in the appropriate text for the option that was agreed upon by the league, delete the non-approved options, save and print.

**[NAME OF LEAGUE]**

**RULES & BY-LAWS**

**[YEAR] SEASON**

**GENERAL LEAGUE INFO AND BOWLING DATES**

The [NAME OF LEAGUE] League will bowl [EVERY WEEK / EVERY OTHER WEEK / ONCE PER MONTH / OTHER] on [DAY OF WEEK] at [NAME OF BOWLING CENTER].

League play will start promptly each bowling date at [TIME], with [#] minutes of practice starting at [TIME].

The league schedule shall be a total of [#] weeks starting on [DAY OF WEEK, MONTH, DATE, YEAR]. The final day of bowling for this league season will be [DATE].

*OPTIONAL:* The bowling season will be divided into [HALVES / THIRDS / QUARTERS]. Should there be an odd number of weeks, the extra week(s) will be placed in the [FIRST / SECOND / THIRD / LAST] [HALF / THIRD / QUARTER]. A winner will be declared for each [HALF / THIRD / QUARTER] with winners competing in the league playoffs at the end of the season.

*OPTIONAL:* The league will not be scheduled to bowl on the following dates: [LIST DATES NOT BOWLING]

**LEAGUE OFFICERS**

This league shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The office of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined. The [LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Officers and Team Captains) / TEAM CAPTAINS / GENERAL MEMBERSHIP] will elect the league officers each season and a [SIMPLE MAJORITY / TWO-THIRDS / OTHER] will be needed to be elected.

Two members of an immediate family cannot serve as officers or co-sign for withdrawals from a league account.

League Officers shall include the list below.

* PRESIDENT
  + Presides at all league meetings
  + Enforces rules of the league
  + Verifies league prize account balance and all transactions with league Treasurer
  + Signs / approves all league disbursements
  + Appoints a prize committee to submit a league prize list for approval
* VICE-PRESIDENT
  + Performs duties of the President in his or her absence
* SECRETARY
  + Ensures that all league members complete their PBA League Bowler Certification application process
  + Forward any PBA League Bowler Certification membership dues to the PBA
  + Keeps minutes of all league meetings
  + Calculates all league records (team / individual standings, averages, etc.) or verifies league records provided by the bowling center and ensures that a standings sheet is provided to all teams
  + Verify any scores that are eligible for special awards and complete any application required for that award
  + Verify / provide end-of-season data as required to bowling center and / or PBA
* TREASURER
  + Establish a bank account in the name of the league with a recognized banking institution or the bowling center. The signatures of at least two officers must be required to make a withdrawal from the leagues prize account
  + Ensure that all league funds are deposited into the league account within 48 hours of receipt
  + Prepare or share a monthly league account statement with team captains at their request
  + Distribute all league prize money within [#] days of the completion of the league schedule
  + Ensure that all league prize money bonding requirements are met
* *OPTIONAL:* SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
  + Performs duties as assigned by the President or Board of Directors

**LEAGUE PLAYING RULES**

**RULE 1 - MANAGEMENT**

This league will be managed by the league Board of Directors which includes the league officers and team captains.

League rules will be voted on by [THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Officers and Team Captains) / TEAM CAPTAINS LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP] and a [SIMPLE MAJORITY / TWO-THIRDS / OTHER] will be needed to adopt a league rule or make a change to a league rule.

**RULE 2 – PLAYING STRENGTH & TEAM MAKEUP**

The league will have [#] teams with a playing strength of [#] bowlers per team.

The makeup of each team shall be [ALL MALES / ALL FEMALES / # MALES AND # FEMALES / ANY COMBINATION OF MALE AND FEMALE].

Pacers [WILL / WILL NOT] be permitted to participate in the league. (If allowed, Pacers scores do not count; they simply bowl to maintain the pace of play.)

The minimum legal lineup shall be [#] bowlers per team and all must be present before the completion of the first frame of each game. Regular members and substitutes (unless league rules provide otherwise) count toward a legal lineup.

*OPTIONAL:* Each team may have a roster limited to [#] bowlers. Any rostered bowler may bowl in any league session.

*OPTIONAL:* Substitutes will be allowed in the league to bowl in place of an absent bowler. A substitute [MUST BE THE SAME GENDER OF THE BOWLER / MAY BE EITHER MALE OR FEMALE]. The league will maintain a list of substitute bowlers who may bowl in place of a missing bowler on any team.

**RULE 3 – LEAGUE FEES**

Each bowler must pay their fees for each session. The weekly league fees per bowler will be broken down as shown below.

Bowling lineage fees:

[Secretary fee *(optional)*}:

[Treasurer fee *(optional)*]:

Prize fee:

TOTAL WEEKLY FEE:

*OPTIONAL:* The Secretary and Treasurer fees shall be paid at the completion of the league schedule when all prize fees have been distributed to all league members.

*OPTIONAL:* Teams will forfeit their games if any team member is not current with their league fees.

**RULE 4 – PRIZE LISTS**

The league President must appoint a committee prior to the start of the season to create a prize list. The prize list must be submitted to the [THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Officers and Team Captains), TEAM CAPTAINS or LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP] for approval by vote no later than the fifth week of the schedule.

**RULE 5 - PRIZES**

All league members must bowl at least [1/2, 2/3, OTHER] of the league’s scheduled games to be eligible for individual league prizes or awards.

*OPTIONAL:* Special individual high series and game prizes shall be awarded on a [SCRATCH, HANDICAP] basis.

OPTIONAL: Special team high series and game prizes shall be awarded on a [SCRATCH, HANDICAP] basis.

**RULE 6 – ENTERING AVERAGES**

Entering averages of all players shall be determined by the following [CHOOSE ONE OF THE OPTIONS BELOW]:

*OPTION #1:* All averages will be established after [##] games bowled in this league in the current league season.

*OPTION #2:* Average established in this league last season, based on [##] games or more. If a bowler does not have an average from last season they will establish their average after [##] games are bowled in the current season.

*OPTION #3:* Highest verifiable average from the previous season in any league based on [##] games or more. If a bowler does not have an average from last season they will establish their average after [##] games are bowled in the current season.

*OPTIONAL:* The maximum entering average per team is [###].

**RULE 7 – HANDICAP**

The league will determine wins and losses on a handicap basis. The handicap will be [##]% of the difference between a bowler’s average and a base score of [###].

**RULE 8 – TEAM STANDINGS**

This league will utilize a [CHOOSE ONE OF THE OPTIONS BELOW]:

*OPTION #1:* three point system, with one point being awarded for each game won.

*OPTION #2:* four point system, with one point being awarded for each game won, and one point being awarded for winning the series.

*OPTION #3:* 5 point system, with one point being awarded for each game won, and two points being awarded for winning the series.

*OPTION #4:* 7 point system, with two points being awarded for each game won, and one point being awarded for winning the series.

*OPTION #5 – OTHER: Leagues may determine other team and individual standings such as other point systems or individual match play points awarded. Example: In the match play point system, each bowler on a team is paired against a bowler in the same lineup position on the other team. The bowler with the highest score for a particular game wins a point(s). At the same time, the team with the most total pins for a particular game also wins a point.*

**RULE 9 – ABSENTEE AND VACANCY SCORES**

Absentee and vacancy scores are allowed when a team has a legal lineup, but less than a full lineup at the start of any game in any bowling session.

Teams that have a vacancy will use a score of [###] plus the appropriate handicap for the vacant bowler.

Teams that have an absent bowler shall use the absent bowlers average less [##] pins plus the appropriate handicap.

A bowler who arrives late may enter any game provided [#] frames have not been completed. Late bowlers will be allowed to make up the missing frames of that game moving forward in this situation.

**RULE 10 – FORFEITS**

When a team is bowling in a forfeit situation or scheduled against a blind or vacant team, the team [CHOOSE ONE OF THE OPTIONS BELOW]:

*OPTION #1:* will automatically win all matches

*OPTION #2:* must bowl at least the team average less [##] pins per bowler to earn the wins and associated points.

**RULE 11 – PRE-BOWLS / POST-BOWLS**

The league [WILL / WILL NOT] allow pre-bowling. All pre-bowl requests must be made in advance and approved by the [LEAGUE PRESIDENT / LEAGUE SECRETARY / LEAGUE POSTPONEMENT COMMITTEE / OTHER]. All pre-bowls must be bowled in advance of the postponed date and scheduled with the bowling center.

Post-bowls will only be allowed in the case of an emergency. The [LEAGUE PRESIDENT / LEAGUE SECRETARY / LEAGUE POSTPONEMENT COMMITTEE / OTHER] must be notified of the emergency in advance of the regularly scheduled match or the team will forfeit. If allowed to post-bowl, the games must be bowled within [##] days of the postponed date and scheduled with the bowling center.

**RULE 12 – WITHDRAWALS**

If a team or bowler withdraws from the league during the season, they must provide two weeks notice and will be responsible for those two weeks of league fees.