

What is the Answer?

What is the Answer is a series of rule interpretations most commonly answered by the Women's International Bowling Congress, American Bowling Congress and Young American Bowling Alliance combined Rules Department. The responses indicated herein are specific to the facts presented and do not necessarily apply in all or similar situations.

For easy reference, this manual is organized by numbered question under specific topics. Please use What is the Answer in conjunction with the ABC/WIBC/YABA Playing Rules book. Any question not covered in the manual can be answered by contacting the Rules Department at:

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ABSENTEE & VACANCY SCORES

1 What is the difference between absentee and vacancy?

As defined in Rule 105b(5), an absentee score is used when a regular member is absent and a substitute is not available. Unless otherwise provided by league rule, the absentee score for each game shall be the member's current average less 10 pins and, in handicap leagues, the handicap is based on the member's current average.

A vacancy score is used when the team is incomplete and looking for a bowler. The vacancy score shall be 120 unless the league rules state another number. In handicap leagues, the handicap must be based on the vacancy score used.

2 If an individual is absent the first night of bowling, is an absentee or vacancy score used?

An absentee score is used unless otherwise provided by league rules or past precedent established in the league. If there is a question as to whether the individual absent is a member of the team's roster, the league board of directors decides the matter.

3 What score should be used if a member is absent the first night of bowling?

When the absentee score is based on the absent member's current average, the league should specify what the absentee score will be until a current average is established. Many leagues adopt a provision for the absentee score based on the absent member's entering average (usually from the previous season) until a current average is established. Rule 105b, Item 5a applies if a league does not adopt a rule: the absentee score for each game shall be the absent member's current average less 10 pins.

Rule 105b, Item 5c applies if a league does not adopt a rule and a team has an absent member without an established average: a score of 120 is used. A league may require the absentee score to be a set figure until the bowler establishes a current average.

4 Can a league adopt a rule stating there will be no handicap given for a vacancy score?

No. Rule 105b(4) states in a handicap league, handicap must be based on the vacancy score used.

5 If two members are absent and only one substitute is obtained, which absentee score is used?

According to Rule 104a-1, the team captain is responsible for the eligibility of the team and determines whom the substitute will replace. First, the captain determines whom the substitute will replace and then the absentee score is determined.

When the team has a limited roster, the process is easy. The captain selects the player the substitute replaces, and the absentee score of the other player is used.

When a team has additional players on its roster, the captain decides whom the substitute is replacing. Whoever the substitute is replacing, the absentee score for that absent member cannot be used. According to Rule 105b, item 5(b), the absentee score of the player with the most games is used for the other player. If two absentee scores are needed after the substitute is in place, the absentee score of the absentee with the next highest number of games is used and when two absent members have the same number of games, the lower absentee score is used. (See Q #9 for cap information.)

6 In a match point league, if two opposing teams have an absent member, and one absent member shows up to bowl games 2 and 3, does the captain change the lineup by placing the bowler in a position where the player would have bowled if present for the first game?

No, the lineup stays the same. The player bowling games 2 and 3 bowls in the position the absentee score was used for game 1. Rule 100i(2) states no change may be made in the order of players in the lineup during a series, unless league rules state differently.

AVERAGE & CAPS

7 The league rule requires three games be bowled to establish an average. A member bowls a 120 for game one and a 150 for game two and cannot bowl game three. What score is used for the missed game? How are average and handicap figured?

In a handicap league, according to Rule 100e(3), If a bowler does not have an entering average or until they meet the requirements(s) defined by league rule, handicap is based on the average of all games bowled.

In the example given, the score for game three would be calculated by adding games 1 and 2 together ($120 + 150 = 270$ actual pinfall), then dividing by total games bowled ($270 \div 2 = 135$ average). This will give you the bowlers' average which is used for handicapping purposes. To determine the absentee score for game three, the bowler would use the established average less ten pins ($135 - 10 = 125$ absentee score) unless league rules state otherwise.

Here is an example for a league that uses 100 percent of 200 as its handicap base:

Week 1:

		Score	Handicap
Game 1-	present	120	65
Game 2-	present	150	65
Game 3-	absent	125	65
Total		395	195 Total w/Handicap = 590

Week 2:

Game 1-	present	150	60
Game 2-	present	170	60
Game 3-	present	160	60
Total		480	180 Total w/Handicap = 660

The reason for the change in handicap in Game 1 of the second week is because the bowler now has met the rule requiring three games be bowled to establish an average. Thus, after the third actual game bowled the new handicap must reflect the average after three games have been completed ($120 + 150 + 150 = 420$ total pins \div 3 games = 140 average).

8 The league has a rule stating teams may not exceed the 900 average cap at any time during the season. A team needs a substitute or a replacement during the season. Do the team members use their current average or entering average to determine compliance with the league average cap?

Rule 118c(2) requires the entering average be used when a member on a team is replaced or a substitute is used and the combined entering averages of those players will constitute the team average for the purpose of meeting the league average cap.

9 The playing strength of the league is four; our team has six players on the roster. One of the four players scheduled to bowl could not make it. The entering average of the absent player with the most games puts the team over the league cap. What should the captain do?

According to Rule 104a(1), it is the team captain's responsibility to ensure the eligibility of the team. Therefore, the captain must change players to meet the cap. If it is not possible to meet the cap, a postponement should be requested.

BOWLING BALLS & APPROACHES

10 One of the bowlers is having a difficult time sliding on the approach and applies a commercial product purchased at the center pro shop to the bottom of their shoes. The product is designed to help a bowler slide. The secretary says she has received a complaint from the opposing team and notifies the individual to stop using the substance or the game will be forfeited. Can an officer tell a bowler to stop using the substance and declare the game forfeited?

Rule 12 states, "The application of any foreign substance on any part of the approach that detracts from the possibility of other players having normal conditions is prohibited."
Commercial products, talcum powder or any substance applied to the shoe or approach could be in violation of Rule 12. If a league participant uses a substance and somebody complains that it prohibits him or her from having normal conditions, the league officer should require the individual to immediately stop his/her action. If the individual refuses, his/her games are subject to forfeiture.

11 When can an acceptable cleaner be used?

Unless otherwise provided by league or tournament rule, cleaners designated as acceptable by ABC/WIBC/YABA standards can be used at any time during sanctioned competition.

For a complete list of acceptable cleaning agents, see www.bowlingrulebook.com.

12 Can abrasives be used between games?

Rule 18 does not allow the outer surface of any bowling ball to be altered with an abrasive after the start of competition. This includes balls that have not yet been introduced into play.

Further, the start of competition is defined as the point the first ball is thrown by any participant for score. This would allow a bowler to alter the outer surface of a ball during practice and not be in violation of Rule 18.

13 If my bowling ball's serial number has been removed or is no longer visible on the ball, is it still legal/acceptable to use in sanctioned competition?

The manufacturer's name, product name and the serial number must be visible for the ball to be used in sanctioned competition. If the serial number can no longer be identified, it can be replaced by engraving another serial number provided the ball's original product name and manufacturer's name are still visible. These items must be included to verify that it is an approved ball.

BOWLING CENTER ARRANGEMENTS & SERVICE

14 Can the bowling center set the length of our league schedule?

The length of the schedule and other commercial aspects of the game (such as price of bowling, time, number of teams, etc.) are matters to be negotiated by the league and the proprietor. WIBC/ABC have no jurisdiction over commercial aspects, but have a vital concern on how sanctioned leagues are conducted. WIBC/ABC rules enable a league to decide on the schedule length depending on agreement with the proprietor. It is important to come to an agreement on these matters before the season begins.

When there is no written contract between the league and the proprietor, verbal commitments are just as binding. We urge all sanctioned leagues to honor their contracts, whether verbal or written. If questions arise about commercial matters, the president and secretary of the league should meet with the proprietor to discuss the matter.

15 Is the bowling center required to provide an open lane(s) on either side of a league during league play?

ABC/WIBC do not have a rule requiring open lanes be provided on either side of a league during league play. Whenever leagues have concerns regarding this issue, it is recommended the league officers or a committee formed by the league president address the matter with center management.

16 May a team or individual come early to practice on the lanes they are scheduled to bowl on later for league play?

WIBC/ABC/YABA do not have a rule prohibiting practice games before league play. If the league wanted to adopt a rule, the proprietor would have to be consulted first. Because the league has no jurisdiction until play has commenced, this type of rule may be an infringement on the proprietor's rights as an independent business person.

17 How should a league handle complaints regarding problems occurring within the bowling center?

When the league has concerns regarding lanes, equipment, loud music, etc., the league officers, or a

committee appointed by the league president, may discuss the problem with center management in an effort to resolve the matter.

18 Can a proprietor require our league to use and pay for the secretarial services provided by the center?

Since WIBC/ABC/YABA rules do not govern secretarial services, it is advisable for the league president and secretary to meet with the bowling center to negotiate an agreement.

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

BOWLING ON ONE LANE

19 Is it permissible to bowl on one lane if the equipment fails on another?

If there is equipment failure, it is permissible for sanctioned leagues to bowl a game or series on one lane if another pair is not available.

When the original pair or another pair of certified lanes becomes available, the team(s) may resume play on those lanes.

BOWLING OUT

20 Can a player bowl out a second game of a series? How should bowling out be done?

According to Rule 106e, a player can bowl out any one game of a series. There is no rule governing how to bowl out. Usually, a player bowling out alternates with other bowlers as they continue to bowl. The player takes a turn on each lane immediately after the previous bowler has finished so progress is not delayed.

BOWLING ON WRONG LANE/OUT OF TURN

21 If an individual bowls out of turn does the delivery count?

No, according to Rule 8d, a dead ball would be declared and the correct bowler is then required to continue play.

22 What do you do if one person from each team bowls on the wrong lane?

A dead ball would be called. Therefore, the deliveries would not count and the players would be required to rebowl on the correct lanes, according to Rule 9b. However, if more than one player on the same team bowls on the wrong lane in turn, that game would be completed without any adjustment. Any succeeding game would be started on the correctly scheduled lane.

CHANGING DELIVERY

23 May a bowler switch his/her delivery after the start of the season due to injury?

Yes. However, according to Rule 118d, the bowler is required to obtain permission from the league board of directors. If the bowler were later able to return to their original hand delivery, permission would again have to be obtained from the board. No combination of scores bowled both right and left-handed can be used in computing an average. Therefore, two separate averages would have to be maintained. According to Rule 118b, a bowler who switches without permission forfeits those games.

(NOTE: Switching from right-handed to left-handed or vice versa can only be approved by the board of directors for injury or disability purposes.)

24 If a bowler uses his/her opposite hand to make a delivery during a game, what happens?

In accordance with Rule 118b, right-handed bowlers must always bowl right-handed and left-handed bowlers must always bowl left-handed when establishing an average. If an individual uses his/her opposite hand in making a delivery during a game without permission from the league board of directors, a league officer or the league board would then have the following options within the timelines as stated in Rule 119.

Declare the individual's game forfeited: The bowler would receive zero for the game. (Note: Scores bowled by the other team members not in violation stand as bowled.)

Declare the team game forfeited: The team would receive zero for the game. (Note: The individual in violation would receive zero. However, scores bowled by the other team members count towards their individual averages and league awards unless the league rules state otherwise.)

CORRECTIONS OF ERRORS

25 Does the league board have to meet before an error can be corrected?

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

26 Can an error be corrected if the scoresheet is taken home and both captains have signed the recap sheet?

While there is no rule violation, it is not advisable for a team captain to take the scoresheet home to check. To prevent misunderstandings, the scores should be checked at the lanes with a member of the opposing team or a neutral witness. However, if a scoresheet is taken home and an error is found, the matter needs to be referred to the board for a decision.

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

27 Is there a time limit for correcting errors in scoring or calculation?

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

DEAD BALL

28 A player made the first delivery when the pinsetting machine was set on the second cycle. Seven pins were knocked down and the remaining pins were swept from the pin deck as the machine reverted to cycle one. Should a dead ball have been declared and the pins reset?

Since the bowler made a legal delivery and the pins were properly set, there would be no basis for declaring the first delivery a dead ball. The pins left standing would be reset for a second delivery.

29 A bowler threw the second ball and just as the ball reached the 10-pin that was left standing, the rack came down and deflected the ball. The 10-pin was reset and the bowler missed the pin on the second try. Should the player have been credited with a spare and not required to rebowl the second delivery?

No. It would not have been permissible for the bowler to be credited with a spare. According to Rule 8g, a dead ball is declared when a player's ball comes in contact with any foreign obstacle. The rack would be considered a foreign obstacle, and the player would be required to have the pin respotted and rebowl the second ball. In addition, Rule 6a states that no pins may be conceded, and only those actually knocked down or moved entirely off the lane surface as a result of the legal delivery may be counted.

FORFEITS

30 What is a known forfeit?

In a known forfeit, the team bowls knowing the opposing team is not eligible to receive any points due to an apparent rule violation. For example, an opposing team lacks a legal lineup or the opposing team is over the average cap. To promote a competitive atmosphere, Rule 109e requires the non-forfeiting team to earn the points.

To earn points, a team must bowl at least its own team average less 10 pins per player, unless league rules state another number of pins. If a team fails to bowl the prescribed score, points should be listed on the standing sheet as “unearned” points.

31 What is an unknown forfeit?

In an unknown forfeit situation, the team bowls unaware that a forfeit will be declared. For example, it was found out immediately after bowling the opposing team used an ineligible player. The forfeiture would have to be acted upon within the specified timelines of Rule 119. The forfeiting team does not receive any points and the non-forfeiting team is automatically credited with all of the points.

32 When a team uses an ineligible player, can a league officer declare games forfeited?

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

33 If a team does not show up and a postponement was not requested, does the team present get all the points?

In instances where the reason for absence is unknown, the team present earns points as described in Rule 109e-2 and should be advised that the absence may be due to an emergency. (See Q# 30 on how to earn points.)

A league officer should call the captain to determine whether something unforeseen occurred. If an emergency exists, advise the absent team they have the right to request an emergency postponement within the time constraints of Rule 119. See the Postponement Section for more information on emergency postponements.

34 Can a league adopt a no forfeit rule?

No, WIBC/ABC/YABA rules provide for a forfeit as a possible penalty when rules are violated.

35 When a team loses a game by forfeit, how do you determine who wins the point for total pins?

When a team forfeits a game, the team score for that game is zero. Add zero to the scores bowled in the other games in the series and compare that total to the opposing team’s series total.

36 A team meets the prescribed score (team average less ten pins per player) in a known forfeit situation. Do they split the point?

No. When a team meets the prescribed score, the point(s) is earned. There are no ties in this situation.

37 If a team has to forfeit because an ineligible player is used, what happens to the scores bowled?

An ineligible player’s score becomes zero, and the game(s) are not included in their average. The team’s score for the forfeited game(s) is also zero. However, the scores bowled by the eligible players are counted toward their averages and any individual prizes.

38 One team does not show up; the opposing team has only two bowlers and three are required for a legal lineup. Do both teams forfeit?

Yes, under Rule 109c, the games are forfeited by both teams unless a postponement is granted or it is determined an emergency exists.

39 In our league, we figure team and individual averages after bowling three games. On the first night, if a team is bowling in a forfeit situation, how would you determine whether the team “earned” points for the three games since averages are not established until the series completion?

The team would have to wait until the end of the series to figure individual and team averages. After the team average is computed, deduct 10 pins per player to determine the score the team had to bowl, or exceed, to be credited with “earned” points. If the team does not earn points, they are listed on the standing sheet as “unearned.”

FOULS

40 What happens if our foul lights are not working?

If the foul lights are not working, and it is not possible to immediately repair or replace the foul detecting device, the bowling center could provide a foul judge, to be stationed so that there is an unobstructed view of the foul line. If not available, Rule 5c(2) provides the opposing captains to call fouls or designate someone to act as a foul judge in league play. Under those circumstances, members of the league should be advised the captains are responsible for the calling of fouls or they are to designate someone to act as a foul judge.

41 What happens when there is a dispute over a foul call?

According to Rule 10, a provisional ball should be thrown when there is a controversy over a foul call. A provisional ball or frame shall be bowled when a protest involving a foul, legal pinfall or a dead ball is made and cannot be resolved by the two team captains.

When a dispute over a foul occurs, the player shall complete the frame and then bowl one provisional ball. The scoresheet or printout and a record of both scores for the frame in which the provisional delivery is made, shall be kept. The protest must be referred to the league board of directors for a decision.

42 If a bowler sticks on the approach and falls over the foul line after releasing the ball, is it a foul?

Yes. According to Rule 5a, a foul is committed when any part of a bowler’s body encroaches on or goes beyond the foul line and touches any part of the lane, equipment or building after executing a legal delivery. Footwear and clothing are considered part of the bowler’s body. On the other hand, if the bowler retains possession of the bowling ball, a foul is not committed.

A foul is not committed when foreign objects such as pens, jewelry, coins, cigarettes, etc., drop from a bowler’s pocket or fall from a person’s body or clothing. A player should request permission to cross the foul line to retrieve any items that fall beyond the foul line.

43 A member of a team crosses onto an adjacent approach when making a delivery. Is this considered a foul?

A foul is not called when a bowler crosses onto an adjoining approach area. However, if the bowler steps over the foul line on that lane, it is considered a foul.

44 Is a foul called when the ball rolls over the foul line during delivery and the foul detector is activated?

The bowling ball is not considered a part of the bowler’s body. If the bowler did not step on or go beyond the foul line, a foul is not recorded.

FRANCHISE & ROSTER

45 To whom does the team spot in a league belong - the captain, team members, league or sponsor?

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

46 What happens to the franchise or "spot" in the league if a team captain does not want it any more?

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

HANDICAP

47 What is a good handicap percentage for a league with members who have a wide range of averages?

WIBC/ABC/YABA recommend using 100 percent handicap because higher handicap percentages equalize competition.

48 What is the most effective system of handicapping?

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

For example, if the highest individual average is 197, the base figure for handicapping could be set at 205, allowing for average improvement, and 100 percent of 205 could be adopted by the league. The players' individual handicaps are added together for the team handicap.

With this method, each bowler as well as each team has the benefit of handicap. When the league awards individuals for high handicap game and high handicap series, it is simple for the secretary to determine which league member is in contention because individual handicap is already included.

49 Some of the higher average teams want us to adopt a rule to limit handicap. Can we set a limit of a 60 pin handicap for any one bowler?

To limit handicap a league must adopt its own rule. However, WIBC/ABC/YABA believe leagues should not adopt such a rule.

Although higher average teams believe they cannot be competitive each week while giving the full handicap allowance, they should keep in mind unless the league is using at least 100 percent handicap, the higher average team still has the advantage. For example, at 85 percent handicap, the higher average team has a 15 percent advantage. With unlimited handicap, the higher average teams may be challenged, but our experience indicates more competitive bowling is stimulating to all teams in the league.

50 If a member's average exceeds the base figure for handicapping, is the member eligible for handicap awards?

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

INELIGIBLE BOWLERS

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

No, Rule 105b(2) states under no circumstances may an absentee or vacancy score replace scores bowled by an ineligible player.

According to Rule 103b, the league board is authorized to rule on protested games and declare them forfeited or null and void. When an ineligible player is used, games are generally forfeited. If there are mitigating circumstances, the board could declare the games null and void and have them rebowled. If a complaint or protest is not filed in accordance with Rule 119, the games would stand as bowled.

LEAGUE FEES

52 If a member resigns from the league and the spot is not filled within two weeks (fees were paid, but there is no substitute), what should be used... absentee or vacancy?

The absentee score should be used. An absentee score is used when a regular member is absent and a substitute is not available. A vacancy score is used when the team is incomplete and looking for a bowler. In the situation described, the member resigned, but was not replaced immediately. Therefore, the player is still a member for those two weeks. Once the two weeks expire and a replacement has not been obtained, the vacancy score provided for in the league rules is used.

53 Can a league adopt a rule to curtail late or nonpayment of league fees?

According to Rule 109d, a league could adopt a rule stating games will be forfeited if participants in a team's lineup are not current in their fees. With such a rule, if the members present do not submit their own fees, the games are subject to forfeit. (See Suggested League Rule 3 in the League Officers Manual.)

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

Don't allow league fees to be charged. Make sure everyone is aware of this rule. If anyone asks to "pay next week," the team captain or league treasurer should say no and advise them of the league rule. The captain should collect the fees before the team starts to bowl.

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

No. A member cannot be dismissed without following Rule 115a or 115b. The rule could state that a bowler who owes league fees will be subject to dismissal, but not automatically.

Written charges must be filed with the board, and the member must be notified of the meeting and be given the opportunity to defend themselves.

55 A league rule states members cannot be more than a week behind in paying their league fees. If any member comes the second week in a row and can't pay, can a league officer tell them they can't bowl?

Yes. If more leagues had such a rule and enforced it, there would be far fewer instances of nonpayment of league fees and fewer suspended members. Just be sure to explain this rule to every member. You may have a few disgruntled members early in the season, but the word will spread that the league is serious about everyone keeping their fees current. A league should not allow debts to accumulate for more than two weeks without taking action.

56 How should the league handle a member whose checks are constantly being returned because of insufficient funds?

When a member's check is returned because of insufficient funds, the treasurer should contact the member and insist on cash payment for the amount of the check plus any service charges incurred. If payment is not received, the member could be charged with nonpayment of league fees under Rule 115b. We also suggest that no further checks be accepted and the player notified that league fees can only be paid in cash. If checks are a problem, the league may adopt a rule stating checks will not be accepted for payment of league fees.

In instances where a league has an arrearage rule, the member issuing the check is considered in arrears. Games bowled by the member are subject to forfeiture if payment is not received.

57 What if fees are never paid and the prize fund is short? What course of action can the league follow?

This would be a matter for referral to the board under Rule 103b. Generally, when a shortage occurs because a

team member did not pay fees, the shortage is deducted from the individual's share of the team prize money at the end of the season. If the shorted amount is excessive and not covered by the individual's prize money, the loss could be prorated and a small amount would be taken from the prize money of each team in the league or the loss could be taken from the team's prize money. In either case, charges should be filed against the member who did not pay fees under Rule 115b.

58 Who is responsible for the league fees when a team is unable to find a bowler to fill a vacancy?

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

LEAGUE OFFICERS

59 If an officer resigns, how is the vacancy filled?

When a vacancy occurs in any office, regardless of when it occurs, the board fills the vacancy as provided in Rule 102b.

60 In reference to Rule 102a, who is considered immediate family? What if they are no longer in the same household?

Members of an immediate family include mothers, daughters, sisters, wives, husbands, sons, brothers, fathers, stepsisters, stepbrothers, stepmothers, stepfathers and in-laws.

Even if immediate family members do not reside in the same household, it is not permissible for them to hold the offices of president, vice president and treasurer in the same league or co-sign for withdrawals.

According to Rule 102a, two members of an immediate family cannot serve as president or vice-president and secretary-treasurer or treasurer of the same league or co-sign for withdrawals from a league account.

61 If the team captain is also an officer, can they vote as a captain and as an officer?

No. According to Rule 103a, each member of the board is entitled to one vote, whether a league officer, team representative or both. The rule also states a captain may designate another team member to act as the team representative at board meetings. Therefore, if the captain designates another member, the captain is entitled to vote by virtue of the office held, with the other member voting as team representative.

62 Our bowling center is offering a secretarial service. Does this mean the league does not need a secretary?

No, regardless of the services offered, Rule 102a requires a league to elect a secretary. The secretary becomes the go-between for the league and the secretarial service, but is still responsible for all duties listed in Rule 102e.

LEAGUE RECORDS

63 How long must records be maintained?

WIBC/ABC/YABA do not have any rule regarding how long the secretary's records should be kept. However, it is suggested minutes be retained indefinitely. Recap sheets can be destroyed after the season has been completed and all records have been finalized. Final average sheets should be retained for a period of three years.

As to the treasurer's records, Rule 102f(7) requires all financial records, whether in the possession of the former officer or newly elected officer, be retained for at least 120 days following the completion of the schedule.

64 Who has the right to see the records?

Although the secretary and treasurer are responsible for maintaining an accurate and complete account of scores and finances, the records are league property.

Therefore, members have the right to see the records. However, so as not to disrupt bowling, arrangements should be made to view the records either before or after bowling, or at some time agreeable to the officer(s).

LEAGUE RULES & SCHEDULES

65 Can league rules be adopted at the end of the season, rather than before the schedule starts?

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

66 Can league rules be adopted or changed after the league schedule starts?

Yes, according to Rule 122, once the schedule begins, the unanimous written consent of the team captains or designated representative is needed to adopt a new or change an existing league rule. When a league adopts new or changes existing rules, the rule revisions become effective immediately upon adoption and cannot be made retroactive.

67 Can special eligibility requirements for entry be adopted by a league?

Yes. Leagues are invitational by nature and have the authority to adopt special requirements for entry into the league. For example, a league can place minimum and maximum limits on entering averages, employment requirements (company leagues), even limiting entry into the league to males only or females only.

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

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

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

69 If teams bowl against the wrong opponents during the regular schedule or a position round, do the games have to be bowled over, or can the scores be compared with the proper opponents?

WIBC/ABC/YABA have held the games stand as bowled and are entered in the record for games won or lost as well as for individual averages. The league would simply continue with the regular schedule after discovering the error. The same procedure would be followed when teams bowl the wrong opponents in a position match.

Comparing scores with the proper opponents changes the competitive circumstances under which the match was bowled.

LEGAL LINEUP

70 Do absentee and/or vacancy scores count toward a legal lineup?

No. According to Rule 105b(1), an absentee or vacancy score cannot be counted as an eligible player toward a legal lineup.

71 If a legal lineup is not present by the end of the first frame, can late bowlers make up missed frames and not forfeit if they arrive before the designated tardy player frame?

The tardy player rule (106d) is not applied automatically in conjunction with the requirement indicated in Rule 109a, that a legal lineup must be present by the end of the first frame.

A league rule setting a specific frame for tardy players is separate from the legal lineup rule, which applies first. For example, a five member team could have three or four eligible players present to start the game, and there would be no forfeit because a legal lineup was present. Tardy players could enter the game if they arrived before completion of the designated frame.

According to Rule 109a, if fewer than three eligible players are present, the game is subject to forfeit, but there is an exception. A league may adopt a rule allowing teams until the completion of a specified frame to field a legal lineup. The frame designated for a legal lineup would not necessarily have to be the same frame as the tardy player frame.

72 If a league does not adopt a rule designating the number of regular members for a legal lineup, is it acceptable to have just one regular member plus substitutes?

According to Rule 105a, substitutes are considered eligible players for a minimum legal lineup unless the league adopts a rule requiring a specific number of regular members to be present. If such a rule is not adopted, any number of substitutes could count toward a legal lineup.

73 Can a league adopt a rule stating a legal lineup must be present at the start of a game or at a designated time?

According to Rule 109a, a team has until the completion of the first frame or a select frame other than the first to field a legal lineup. Therefore, it is not permissible to require a team to have a legal lineup present at the start of a game or at a designated time.

74 If a player has to leave any game because of an emergency and the team loses its legal lineup, is the team required to forfeit?

No. Rule 109a does not require a team to forfeit if it loses its legal lineup during a game. The team could finish the game using one-tenth of the bowler's absentee score for the frames not completed.

If the team could not field a legal lineup for the next game, the team is entitled to an emergency postponement. Rule 109b states leagues shall grant postponements for emergencies when a team fails to appear due to reasons beyond its control. The same would apply when a team loses its legal lineup during a series.

MAIL-O-GRAPHIC LEAGUES

75 What is a mail-o-graphic league?

A mail-o-graphic league is one in which scores bowled in different sanctioned leagues are compared to qualify for prizes in one common prize list. All scores are submitted to the mail-o-graphic league secretary who enters the scores and determines team and/or individual standings. All scores used must be from sanctioned leagues.

ABC/WIBC will sanction such leagues provided:

1. All ABC/WIBC equipment specifications apply.
2. All rules for ABC/WIBC leagues shall apply insofar as applicable.
3. Application must designate league as a mail-o-graphic league.

Players in a mail-o-graphic league must join the association through which the league is affiliated if they have not already applied for a current season's membership through another association. Scores used in mail-o-graphic leagues are not eligible for ABC and WIBC national awards or averages since they are already recognized through the league the scores were originally bowled in.

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONSENT

76 Can a 16-year-old bowl in an ABC/WIBC league?

Yes, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements set by the league. In addition, if they are an unmarried high school student, a parent or guardian is required to sign a parental consent form as specified in Rule 13 of the Playing Rules book. This form cautions parents/guardians of the possible consequences if the youth bowls in an ABC/WIBC league or tournament. A copy of the form is available on page 31 of this book.

According to Rule 400, bowling in adult leagues that award cash prizes and/or prizes valued over \$50 not only affects YABA membership, but also could jeopardize the student's ability to participate in high school and/or college sports. Participation could also jeopardize college scholarships earned. If your child is active in sports, we suggest that the athletic director at the high school be contacted before giving consent.

77 We've had a youth bowling in our league all season and just realized the Parental Consent Form, as indicated in Rule 13, has not been filed with the league. What should be done with the games the youth bowled?

The youth would be considered an ineligible player and games are subject to forfeit. However, action can only be taken within the time frame of Rule 119.

If the youth wishes to continue in the league, the youth then must complete a Parental Consent Form as indicated in Rule 13.

PLAYOFF & TIES

78 Can a playoff be conducted the same night as the sweeper?

Yes, if the sweeper is held after the schedule for position standings is completed.

79 If the league rules state no substitutes will be permitted the final two weeks of the schedule, can a substitute be used in the playoff?

According to Rule 113b, item 1(a), the playoff is conducted under the same rules governing the league during the season. A playoff is not considered part of the last two weeks of the schedule. If substitutes are permitted during the regular season, they would be acceptable as eligible players unless a league rule specifically states that substitutes are not permitted in the playoff.

80 What average and handicap are used in a playoff?

Unless otherwise provided by league rules, the players involved use their average and handicap as of the date the playoff is bowled. For example, if a league bowls a split season, and the playoff for the first half is not bowled until after three weeks into the second half, the average and handicap for the playoff includes all the games already bowled in the second half.

81 What happens if there is a three way tie for first place or a trophy position?

If the league did not adopt special rules to govern the playoff, Rule 113b, item 1(a) provides the playoff consists of the same number of games conducted under the same rules that governed during its regular season. If a league bowled three games each session, the playoff consists of three games.

When more than two teams are involved, Rule 113b, item 1(c) states total pins from the playoff will determine the winner unless otherwise provided in league rules. Four adjoining lanes would be used; starting lanes would be selected by draw, and teams would rotate after each game as follows:

Lane	A	B	C
First game	Team 3	Team 1	Team 2
Second game	Team 2	Team 3	Team 1
Third game	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3

82 If a league wants to adopt another league playoff format, what is acceptable?

The league could adopt one of the following formats to determine the winner of the playoff. However, under no circumstances may the playoff consist of less than one game.

- a. Bowl one game (or two games).
- b. Best two of three games.
- c. Total pins of a three-game playoff series.
- d. A point for each game, but none for series.
- e. Stepladder finals.
- f. Round Robin.

If a league does not adopt special rules, the same point system used during the season applies for the playoff.

83 May a captain change the lineup from game to game?

Yes. Unless it is a match point league or there is a league rule to the contrary, a captain may change the lineup from one game to the next. Rule 106b states that once a game has started, no changes to the order can be made after the start of a game. The rule does not place a restriction on making changes during a series of games. A captain may change the order of the players, replace a substitute with a regular member or make any other lineup change from one game to the next.

84 The league bowls a position round the last week and after bowling, there is a tie for first place. Do the teams involved bowl another complete 10th frame to determine the champion?

No. According to Rule 113a, a playoff series would be bowled to determine the champion. If the league does not have rules to govern the playoff, it would be conducted under the same rules that apply during the regular season. For instance, if the league bowls three games each session using the seven-point system (two points awarded for each game, plus one point for total pins), the playoff would consist of three games using the seven-point system. Another complete 10th frame is bowled only if a tie still exists at the end of the playoff series.

85 When there is a tie for the league championship, can a league adopt a rule stating total pins for the season will break the tie?

Total pins for the season cannot be used to break a tie for any place in the position standings. A league may adopt rules to govern a playoff, but not one that would eliminate a playoff.

Position standings are determined on the basis of games or points won during the season in actual competition. Rule 113a states a tie for first place must be decided with a playoff. The last sentence of the rule states it also applies when a league decides to break a tie for any other position.

The difficulty involved in basing team standings on total pins can be illustrated by checking almost any league standing sheet. Frequently a team in fifth or sixth place will have a larger total pin count than the team in third, second, maybe even first place. Usually prize money for any other tied place is combined and divided equally between the tied teams. If there are trophies involved, or if a league finds it necessary to break a tie for some other reason, a playoff must be held.

86 If a tie still exists after a playoff series is completed, can the team captains decide if another complete game will break the tie?

In the absence of a league rule stating otherwise, Rule 113b applies. Rule 113b, item 1(d) states when a tie still exists at the end of the playoff, each team will bowl an additional frame. This frame is to be bowled by each team on the lane where it bowled the final frame of the last game and is scored like the tenth frame. If the tie is still unbroken, the teams involved alternate lanes for the additional tenth frame needed to break the tie. This frame stands alone to determine the winner and is not added to the previous playoff game total. In a handicap league, one-tenth of the handicap is added to the 10th frame score.

Leagues using the four-point system often adopt special rules for the playoff. For example, the winner is based on total pins in a three-game series or on points awarded only for games won with no point given for total pins. Either rule reduces the chances of having the playoff end in a tie.

POSITION ROUNDS - MATCHES

87 Should position matches be determined when the schedule is adopted before the season begins or during the season?

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

88 Is there a certain format for lane assignments in position matches?

There are several possibilities, and a league can adopt the format its members prefer. The most common method is to schedule the first and second place teams on the first pair of lanes; the third and fourth place teams on the next pair, etc. Another possibility is to have one team captain for each match draw for a pair of lanes.

The only basic requirement is teams be scheduled against opponents according to league standings. If the league does not have a rule on assigning lanes, the board makes the decision. (See Rule 103b.)

89 When there is a tie in the standings prior to a position match, how do you determine which teams bowl against each other?

According to Rule 120, ties for position pairings are determined by total pinfall, without handicap, unless the league adopts another procedure.

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

Since pairings for matches start with the first place team, the last place team ends up with the nonexistent team as its opponent. That team bowls to earn the points, or is given a bye.

91 What happens if two teams fail to make up a postponement just before a position match and don't have the same number of games bowled as the other teams?

When postponed games have not been completed before a position match, the secretary determines team pairings on a percentage basis when scheduling the position match. (See Q & A #96 for more information.)

92 If teams bowled against the wrong opponents in a position match, do the games have to be bowled over, or can the scores be compared with the proper opponents?

WIBC/ABC/YABA have held the games stand as bowled and are entered in the record as won or lost, as well as for individual averages. Comparing scores with the proper opponents changes the competitive circumstances under which the match was bowled.

93 Can a substitute be used in a position round or a playoff?

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

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

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

POSITION STANDINGS

95 How are position standings figured if postponements granted during the season are not made up before the end of the season or end of a segment for a split season?

Any postponed games not made up in time could be ruled null and void or forfeited by the board. When games are ruled null and void, the league secretary figures final standings on a percentage basis, since all teams have not bowled the same number of games. (See Q & A #96 for more information on figuring position standings on percentage.)

96 Can you explain how to figure position standings on a percentage basis?

A league determines position standings on a percentage basis when it has an uneven number of teams and the league votes to use the bye system, or when all teams in the league do not bowl the same number of games (games ruled null and void or a team is added late in the season and it is impossible to make up the games).

The following is an example of how to figure percentages:

PLACE	TEAM	WON	LOST	TOTAL PTS.	PERCENTAGE
1	C	38	10	48	.792
2	D	40	12	52	.769
3	B	35	13	48	.729
4	A	35	17	52	.673
5	E	26	26	52	.500

1. Add total points won and lost (plus unearned points when applicable).
2. Divide points won by total points.

The chart indicates standings of a league with four points in contention for each match. If a team (Team D) bowled 13 weeks and drew a bye for one week, it has the opportunity to win 52 points. If the team won 40 points out of the possible 52, it has a percentage of .769 in the standings after the 14th scheduled week. For match point leagues, there are more points in contention each week, but the method for figuring the percentage is the same as a four-point league.

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl} \text{Example 2:} & \text{Points Won} & + & \text{Points Lost} & = & \text{Total Points} \\ & 128.5 & & 131.5 & & 260 \\ \\ & \text{Points Won} & \div & \text{Total Points} & = & \text{Percentage} \\ & 128.5 & & 260 & & .494 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} .494 \\ 260 \overline{) 128.500} \\ \underline{1040} \\ 2450 \\ \underline{2340} \\ 1100 \\ \underline{1140} \\ 60 \end{array}$$

Percentages are based on the number of points a team has the opportunity to win as compared to the number of points actually won. Team standing is determined by dividing the total number of points a team competed for into the number of points actually won.

POSTPONEMENTS & PREBOWLS

97 What are the different types of prebowls or postponements?

Rule 110b states there are three types of prebowls and/or postponements:

1. Bowling in direct opposition.
2. Team unopposed bowling.
3. Individual unopposed bowling - ONLY if allowed by league rule.

98 Who grants postponements or prebowls?

According to Rule 110e, the board or a postponement committee appointed by the president decides whether to grant a prebowl or postponement. This is inclusive of any postponement requests for the league's playoffs. The committee or board also grants emergency postponements. All protests regarding postponements or prebowls are decided by the board. (See Q# 134 on Protests.)

99 Can a league allow an officer to grant postponements?

A committee consists of one or more individuals. Although we recommend a postponement committee of three, including the league secretary, it is acceptable for the president to appoint an officer to make the decision. All protests regarding postponements or prebowls are decided by the board. (See Q# 134 on Protests.)

100 If a team cannot bowl at the regularly scheduled time, can they call the bowling center, bowl and turn the scores into the desk or league secretary?

No. A team cannot pre or post bowl without permission. Contacting the center does not fulfill the requirement to receive permission to pre or post bowl as stated in Rule 110e. Only a committee or the board of directors can grant a prebowl or postponement.

101 Can a league adopt a rule allowing the opposing team captain to grant postponements?

No. When a request for a postponement is made, it is up to the league board of directors or postponement committee to decide what is sufficient cause to grant the postponement.

The opposing team captain has neither the authority nor the responsibility to make that decision. The requirement is to assure that a team's right to request a postponement is protected and to be certain a team is not required to forfeit points because the opposing team might not grant a postponement.

102 Can a league adopt a rule allowing individuals/teams to prebowl for an undetermined date and have the scores held by the league secretary until needed?

No. According to Rule 110a, all league games are to be bowled as scheduled unless they are postponed or prebowed by committee or board authorization. For a postponement to take place, a request must be made and permission granted. Requests are made for a specific date and are made up at a time agreed upon by the committee or board.

103 If a team is granted a prebowl or postponement and the opposing team is not notified, are the games forfeited?

When bowling unopposed, the opposing team does not have to be notified (or agree to a date) prior to the time of bowling, unless otherwise provided by league rule. If the league rules are silent regarding team bowling unopposed, the games stand as bowled. As a courtesy, the opposing team should be notified.

104 How is the decision made to grant a prebowl or postponement?

The committee and/or board should carefully consider the reasons for each postponement request and be consistent in their decision-making. Although reasons for requests do not have to be catastrophic or an emergency, it is the committee or board's decision whether or not to grant the prebowl or postponement.

When a committee consists of more than one person or the board makes the decision, a majority vote is required. The decision can be made at a meeting or via a telephone poll of all committee/board members. Decisions regarding protests must be made by the board at a meeting.

105 What is considered sufficient cause for an emergency postponement?

WIBC/ABC/YABA define an emergency as an unforeseen combination of circumstances, making it impossible for a team to field a legal lineup. The reasons for not being able to bowl would not have to be catastrophic - just beyond the control of the team members.

Although each reason by itself might not be considered an emergency, the combination of circumstances happening at the same time is considered an emergency. For example, if a five-person team knew a player was to be out of town and thought they could field a legal lineup, but prior to bowling, another bowler fell ill and the next had to work late, the team could request an emergency postponement.

106 After a bad storm, all but two teams were able to field legal lineups. Please explain why WIBC/ABC/YABA entitles these two teams to emergency postponements when all the other teams in the league were able to get to the lanes.

Weather conditions which prevent a team from appearing are classified as emergencies under Rules 109b and 110c. Rule 110c states leagues must grant postponements for emergencies when a team fails to appear for its

scheduled match due to reasons beyond its control. WIBC/ABC/YABA consistently hold that adverse weather conditions are sufficient reason to grant a postponement without advance notice.

Members must realize all bowlers do not face the same driving conditions or circumstances, so the ability of an individual to drive under adverse conditions cannot be used as a basis for declaring games forfeited.

107 Does a postponement have to be requested prior to the scheduled night?

According to Rule 110d, a team must request a postponement at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled match, except for emergencies. If an emergency exists, the request should be made as soon as possible although it can be made after the scheduled match within the time lines of Rule 119.

108 What happens when a team cannot field a legal lineup or does not appear and no prebowl or postponement is requested?

If a team does not field a legal lineup and does not request a postponement, a forfeit is given. However, the forfeiting team has up to 15 days to protest the forfeiture and request an emergency postponement according to Rule 119. If the scheduled games are within the final two weeks of the schedule, the team must protest and request an emergency postponement within 48 hours of the final date of that schedule.

109 If a team cannot field a legal lineup because some of its members are participating in the ABC, WIBC, YABA National Championships or Annual Meeting, or any ABC, WIBC, YABA local or state/provincial association tournaments or annual meeting, is the league required to grant the team a postponement?

Yes, if the postponement is requested at least 48 hours in advance.

110 How long do teams have before they are required to make up postponed games?

During the season the games must be made up before the last night of league competition for standings or each segment of a split season. If the postponement is granted for the last night of competition for standings or each segment of a split season, the games must be made up within seven days of the final date. The exception is when the league has adopted a rule placing a time limit on unopposed postponements, then the league rule applies.

111 Can a league adopt a rule placing a time limit on postponed games?

Although leagues can adopt rules placing a time limit to make up games bowled unopposed, they cannot adopt a rule for make-up games bowled in direct competition (Rule 110g).

Rule 110g states postponements must be made up before the date of the scheduled competition for final team standings or each segment of a split season or seven days of the final date of the schedule or segment. The only exception is when a protest or appeal is pending finalization under Rule 119.

Therefore, a league wanting to place time limits on direct competition make-up games, can adopt a rule indicating the game "should" be made up within a specified time period.

112 What if a team granted a postponement does not make up the games within the league's time limit?

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

113 What happens if a postponement is not made up before the end of the season?

If games are not made up before the end of the season (end of the half, quarter, etc.) as required by Rule 110g, the games are subject to forfeiture unless the board rules otherwise.

The board considers the reason why the games were never made up, and determines whether a forfeiture is in order or if the games should be declared null and void, and the final position standings for all teams computed on percentages.

114 What average and handicap is used for a prebowl and/or postponement?

The averages and handicaps as of the date the games are bowled must be used in both postponed and prebowed games, as provided in Rule 110f. All games bowled prior to the postponed or prebowed games are used to determine average and handicap.

115 When teams or individuals bowl unopposed, does the team or individual qualify for WIBC/ABC and league awards?

Scores bowled unopposed qualify for WIBC/ABC awards. The scores also qualify for league awards, unless otherwise provided by league rule. (Rule 110f)

116 When teams prebowl or post bowl unopposed, can the opposing team see the scores bowled by the team bowling first?

There is no WIBC/ABC rule to prevent the opposing team from seeing the scores. When a league allows teams to bowl unopposed, rules can be adopted to govern this situation.

117 When an individual prebowl, do the scores count toward the legal lineup requirement?

If the league adopts a rule allowing individuals to prebowl, the scores count towards the legal lineup requirement.

118 Can individuals bowl alone and have their scores added to the team total?

If the league has a rule allowing an individual to bowl unopposed according to Rule 110b, and permission is granted as stated in Rules 110d and 110e, the individual's scores must be added to the team score.

POSTPONEMENTS - ENTIRE LEAGUE

119 Who has the authority to call off bowling for the entire league because of bad weather?

While there is no specific rule giving the authority to cancel bowling because of inclement weather, WIBC/ABC have consistently upheld the decision made by league officers. The officers should be acting in the league's best interest.

To be assured they are making the correct decision to cancel bowling, the officers should conduct a telephone poll of board members. If a majority vote supporting the decision is obtained, it is in line with Rules 103b and 110e which authorize the board to decide on postponements.

120 How is a postponement for the entire league rescheduled?

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

PRIZES & AWARDS

121 What happens if the league did not adopt a prize list in accordance with Rule 117a?

According to ABC/WIBC Rule 102c(5) and Rule 117a, the league president arranges to have the prize committee submit one or more prize lists for consideration by the fifth week after the start of the season. If a prize committee was not appointed, the president should appoint one immediately and one or more prize lists should be submitted to the league for approval as soon as possible.

Rule 117a provides that the board of directors approves the prize list, unless the league rules provide for the adoption by the membership. Once approved, the prize list cannot be changed without written consent from every team captain or designated representative.

122 Can a league adopt a rule that only half the games need to be bowled to qualify for league awards instead of two-thirds?

It is permissible for a league to adopt a rule that a member only bowl one-half of the games (or any other number) to qualify for league awards. (See Rule 117b for further information.)

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

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

According to Rule 104a(7), the team captain is required to pay each member of the team within 15 days after receiving prize money. In addition, Rule 117b requires that team prize money be distributed in accordance with verbal or written agreements. In view of these rules, WIBC/ABC have consistently held prize distribution among team members is a team matter. When a member has bowled part of the season and is unable to be a member at the end of the schedule, it is common practice for teams to prorate prize money between the member who resigned and the replacement, based on the number of games each bowled and paid for during the season. The league board does not have the authority to rule on the trophy award unless requested to do so.

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

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

125 We limit our members to just one individual award. Would the high average award be included in the prize limitation for members?

Rule 117b states no individual can win more than one prize in any group of prizes, unless ruled otherwise by the league. In adopting a rule to govern award limits, many leagues regard the high average as an honor or special achievement, and exempt it from the limitation. The high average prize is awarded to the bowler with the highest average even if the bowler qualifies for other individual awards. However, it is permissible to limit the number of individual awards a bowler may receive, including the high average award.

126 If members qualify for both a handicap and scratch award, and the league rule limits a member to one award but does not state which one takes precedence, can the bowlers take their choice or would the handicap prize take precedence in a handicap league?

WIBC/ABC/YABA do not recommend a bowler be allowed to make a choice when the bowler's scores qualify for more than one award. This places the bowler in the position of determining the other winner. The league board should make the decision. Some bowlers believe scratch scores are more meaningful, and others believe handicap awards should take precedence in a handicap league. The board will make the decision and a league rule should be adopted for the next season.

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

According to Rule 117b(2), when a substitute later becomes a regular member, the games bowled as a substitute are counted toward the required number of games (such as two-thirds) which must be bowled during the season to be eligible for an individual award. Therefore, unless otherwise provided by league rule, the member is eligible for individual league prizes. However, if the player bowled the game while a substitute, they would not be eligible for the prize unless the league adopted a rule to allow substitutes to qualify for award consideration.

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

Extra pins must be carried out to a fraction of a pin to determine who has the higher average. Divide each bowler's total pins for the season by the number of games bowled and carry it out several decimal places.

However, two bowlers could be tied in averages, including the fraction of a pin. If they are tied, they should each receive an award.

129 Can scratch awards be issued in a handicap league?

No, unless otherwise provided by league rules or adopted prize list. (See Rule 117b for reference.)

130 In a mixed league, where a woman is a member of ABC only, what awards would she be eligible for?

The awards she would be eligible for would depend on the wording of the league rule. If the league rules state awards will be based on gender, she would be eligible for all female awards. If the rules state awards are based on membership, she would be eligible for ABC awards only.

PROTESTS & COMPLAINTS

131 Does the board have to make a decision on a verbal protest?

Although the league president may call a meeting to address a verbal protest, they are not required to. ABC/WIBC Rule 119 requires the board to act on all written protests filed within specific timelines.

132 A player or team on the league continually uses foul language during league play. What can be done?

The league officials should privately discuss the problem with the player(s) in question and inform them that using foul language is not acceptable in the league and to continue to do so could result in dismissal from the league. If the player(s) continues, a written complaint may be filed with a league officer asking for dismissal from the league. If the complaint is filed against a team, the complaint must cite each individual team member. (See the next question for dismissal procedures.)

133 When a league receives a written complaint asking for removal of an officer or dismissal of another player or a team, what must be done?

The procedure outlined in Rule 115a must be followed. The president should schedule a meeting of the board of directors within one week of receiving a written complaint. A written notice stating the date, time and place of the meeting and a copy of the complaint must be provided to each individual charged.

The board allows each person involved to be heard and ask questions before making a decision. To dismiss a player or remove an officer, a two-thirds vote of the board members present is required. In the case of an entire team, the board must vote on each team member separately.

After the meeting, a written notice of the board's decision and the right to appeal must be given to the individuals involved.

134 When games bowled are protested, what decisions may the board make?

When a timely written protest is filed, the board must conduct a meeting and render a decision. The local association and/or ABC/WIBC become involved if an appeal of the board's decision is filed according to ABC/WIBC Rule 119.

When the board considers a protest, they should first determine if the protest was filed within the time limits prescribed in Rule 119. If the protest is timely, the board can declare game(s):

Forfeited: If a rule was violated and it is clear those involved were aware of the rule.

Null and void and rebowled: If a rule was violated, but was not complied with due to misinformation or mitigating circumstances. If games are declared null and void, the board should make another decision as to whether the games should be rebowled.

Stand as bowled: If it is found there is no cause for action.

According to Rule 105b, the board cannot replace an ineligible player's scores with an absentee or vacancy score.

135 The board decides to null and void the games of two teams involved in a protest. What happens to the original games bowled?

When games are declared null and void, both team and individual records are eliminated. This includes wins and losses, averages, prize consideration, etc. In other words, a null and void game no longer exists, except for ABC/WIBC/YABA award recognition. (See the note below.) The series scores are deleted from the bowlers' average records as of the date of the decision.

For example, if an individual bowled a 498 series December 3 and the board ruled the match null and void January 7, the 498 series is subtracted from the total pins in the average record and total number of games as of January 7. A new average is computed. The same holds true for all other bowlers with games declared null and void.

When the match is rescheduled, the current average is used for handicapping purposes and lineup changes may be made.

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

SCOREKEEPING & SCORESHEETS

136 If the league recap sheet is lost before the secretary can record the scores, what action is taken?

The secretary cannot record wins and losses without an official record. Therefore, when scoresheets or recap sheets have been lost or destroyed, the games in question should be rebowled. (See Rule 116b.)

137 We use automatic scoring machines, and one night a team's scores were accidentally erased in the eighth frame of the first game. A printout was not available, so the league secretary allowed the team to reconstruct the scores. Was this procedure correct?

If the official record was not finalized, and the teams in question are able to agree, the scores could be reconstructed and, if necessary, the games continued from the point of interruption.

If the official record is mutilated, lost, or defaced, WIBC/ABC/YABA have consistently ruled games in question should be rebowled since the secretary would not have a basis to substantiate entries in the record books. (See Rules 116a and b.)

SPLIT SEASON

138 When there is a tie for the winner of the first half in a split season, when should the playoff be conducted?

The playoff should be bowled as soon as possible. It is not necessary or recommended that teams wait until the end of the season to break a tie for first place in the first half. The playoff may be bowled any time lanes are available. However, averages as of the date the playoff is bowled must be used in determining handicap, unless otherwise provided by league rule. (See Rules 110f(4) and 113b, item 1(b)).

139 We know standings are started over at the half, but how about averages? Would we start new averages after the half?

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

140 How is prize money paid out under a split season format?

Many leagues bowling a split season find it more satisfactory to approve a prize list for each segment. The payments are based on team position standings in each segment, although the prize money is not usually paid out at the end of each segment. Some leagues pay money for the number of points won rather than on position standings. (See Rule 117a.)

SUBSTITUTES & REPLACEMENTS

141 What is the difference between a roster member and a substitute?

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

142 In my league, there are five members on each team and because of our work schedules, we would like to carry six members so we can rotate each week. We were told that another bowler would be considered a substitute. Can we add another member who bowls only for us and is a full-fledged member?

Rule 101a(2) indicates the league decides the team playing strength, but each team is allowed to determine if there will be additional members, unless league rules limit the roster. If your league did not adopt a rule limiting each team to five members, an additional member could be added to the team roster.

143 May a substitute bowl one game with one team and bowl the remaining two games with another team?

Unless otherwise provided by league rule, a player cannot compete on more than one team in the same league for the regularly scheduled games each week. Rule 107a uses the term “player,” and it does not make a distinction between a regular member and a substitute. Therefore, if a league did not adopt a rule to allow a substitute to bowl with more than one team in a match, a substitute cannot compete on more than one team in the same scheduled match. Under no circumstances can a player bowl on more than one team in the same scheduled game. For example, a substitute could not bowl with a team at the regularly scheduled time and then again with another team that may have been granted permission to postpone that match.

144 Can a league adopt a rule that limits each team to naming two substitutes who bowl only for a particular team during the season?

Although WIBC/ABC/YABA recommend roving substitutes be used, league rules may be adopted for using designated substitutes, and for setting a substitute limit. However, without a league rule, a team could have any number of designated or roving substitutes.

Other than Rule 107c, there are no specific rules governing substitutes unless adopted by the league. There are two types of substitutes: designated and roving. A designated substitute generally bowls for one team as needed. A roving substitute is allowed to bowl with any team.

145 May a league adopt a rule that substitutes not be allowed?

Yes, but it is not recommended as it can place undue hardship on a team when members are absent due to illness or other reasons beyond their control. If a league believes a team might bring in high average bowlers as substitutes, the league may set eligibility requirements. For example, leagues may adopt a rule stating a substitute's average cannot exceed the absent member's average, or the substitute's average must be within a specified number of pins of the absent member (usually 10 to 20 pins higher or lower).

146 May a substitute be used when a team has a vacancy?

According to Rule 107c, a team with an incomplete roster (vacancy) may use a substitute unless otherwise provided by league rule.

147 My team had a substitute bowler show up on league night to replace one of our absentee bowlers. The substitute bowled the first game and then found it necessary to leave the bowling center for the remainder of the evening. Is the absentee score for the remaining two games based on the regular team member's average or the substitute's average?

According to Rule 105b(5), an absentee score is to be used when a member is absent and a substitute is not obtained. Since the substitute only completed the first game of the series, the absentee score for the remaining games must be based on the average of the absent regular team member.

148 Our team has six members on its roster, but only five members bowl each week. Can the additional member on our roster bowl with another team on league night?

Yes, additional roster members may bowl with other teams as substitutes when they are not scheduled to bowl with their team, unless league rules state otherwise or the league has a past precedent of not allowing these substitutions. Rule 107c states a substitute is an eligible player who bowls for an absent player or a team without a complete roster. Therefore, without a league rule or past precedent limiting an additional player's participation, they may substitute on another team when not scheduled to bowl with the team on which they are a roster member. If there is a question on the past precedent of the league, the league board of directors must meet and make a majority decision concerning the issue.

149 May a league adopt a rule stating no new members be allowed for the last few weeks of the season, the position round or for the playoff?

Yes, however, according to Rule 107c(9), a team must be allowed to add players when its roster is less than the playing strength of the league. For example, if the playing strength is five, teams must be allowed to have at least five members. A rule limiting additions or replacements to a team after a certain date may not be enforced if the team does not have the full playing strength on the roster. After the playing strength is reached, the league rule should be enforced, and a team is not allowed to add members to the team.

TEAM CAPTAIN AUTHORITY

150 Can a captain remove a member of the team during the season?

Rule 104a(3) states it is within the captain's authority to remove any player permanently from a team. However, the captain must furnish good and sufficient reason upon appeal to the league board.

If players are removed, and are not dismissed under Rule 115a, they are eligible to receive a prorated share of the team prize money at the end of the season, based on the number of games bowled and the amount of prize money won by the team. In addition, the bowlers receive any special prizes for which they have qualified.

151 Can a captain choose not to ask the same team members back next season?

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

UNEVEN NUMBER OF TEAMS & BYE SYSTEM

152 What do we do if our league is short a team, leaving us with an uneven number of teams?

According to ABC/WIBC Rule 114c, when a league starts the season with an uneven number of teams or a team is dismissed or withdraws and is not replaced, the team scheduled against the nonexistent team cannot be automatically credited with the points by forfeit.

The teams and/or individuals scheduled against the nonexistent team must earn the points for the games, unless the league board of directors, by majority vote, decides to use the bye system.

ABC/WIBC recommend the board meet and choose one of the following options:

Option 1: To earn points, must bowl at least its own team average less 10 pins per player, unless league rules state another number of pins. If a team fails to bowl the prescribed score, points should be listed on the standings sheet as "unearned" points.

Option 2: The league chooses the bye system, whereas the team scheduled against the nonexistent team does not bowl. The league then figures position standings using the percentage basis. If standings are computed manually, see Q# 96 for guidance on figuring position standings on a percentage basis.

Option 3: The league chooses a draw system, whereas the team bowling the vacant team will draw a team or be scheduled against another team from the league to earn points. The scores bowled will be used as if bowling in direct competition with the drawn/scheduled team.

153 How are points awarded when a team ties the target score?

When a team ties the target score, they earn the points.

154 What do we do if our league starts the season with an uneven number of teams and a team becomes available during the season?

ABC/WIBC recommend the board meet and choose one of the following options:

Option 1: The league allows the new team to make up the games unopposed and match the scores of the teams that previously bowled what was considered a nonexistent team.

Option 2: The entering team is not allowed to make up games and the position standings are figured using a percentage basis.

155 What do we do if our league starts the season with an uneven number of teams and a team withdraws during the season?

If the league loses a team, creating an even number of teams, this is a forced action and the league must use a schedule that reflects the exact number of teams in the league.

For example, the league bowled the first six weeks of the schedule with 11 teams, using a 12-team schedule. As of the seventh week, a team drops out leaving 10 teams. The league is now required to use a 10-team schedule beginning with the seventh week.

All games bowled against the nonexistent team and by the team that withdrew, stand as bowled.

156 What do we do if our league starts the season with an even number of teams and a team withdraws during the season?

If the league now has an uneven number of teams due to the withdrawal, under Rule 114c, all teams bowling against the nonexistent team must earn points, unless the board decides to use the bye or draw system.

Under Rule 114c, it is not permissible for a league to require a team to bowl against vacancy scores, a percentage of its own average or bowl its average. In all cases, the games bowled by the team that withdrew must stand.

WITHDRAWALS

157 If a member leaves the league without notice and still owes fees, what should an officer do?

When a member is accused of leaving the league without notice and owing fees, the league should try to resolve the matter prior to disciplinary action. Many bowlers are not aware they may be suspended from WIBC/ABC membership for nonpayment of league fees. If payment is not received, a written complaint should be filed immediately with the board and copied to the delinquent member. The provisions of Rule 115b must be followed. (See the League Officers Manual and Rule 115b for help in processing nonpayment cases.)

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

According to Rule 115b(4), the bowler may not be charged for more than six (6) sessions. Immediate action should be taken by the league upon discovering an individual is not returning and still owes league fees.

159 Can the league adopt a rule requiring written resignation to determine the exact date a bowler is no longer a member?

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

160 If management has banned a league member from the center, do they qualify for prize money through the league? Are they required to give two-weeks notice to the league?

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

League members removed by the center are not required to submit a two-week notice as stated in Rule 114a.

ADULT/YOUTH LEAGUES

161 My 20-year old daughter is still a YABA member, but wishes to join our Adult/Youth league with her younger brother. May she join the league as the adult, or would it affect her YABA eligibility?

The league rules or board determine if she can join as the adult. Since the league must follow YABA Rule 400, it would have no effect on her YABA membership.

162 We want to form an adult/youth league. How do we adopt rules? Must there be the same number of youths and adults on each team?

The rules are the same as for any other league, except Rule 400 must be followed. No one in the league may receive merchandise awards over \$50, or any cash or bonds based on skill, score or position standing. The makeup of adults and youths depends on the members involved. The number on each team is not important except for determining handicap.

163 How do we decide handicap?

If there is not the same number of youths and adults on all teams, it is recommended you must use the same handicap method for everyone. However, if all teams have the same number of adults and youths, you may use different methods. For example, 100 percent of 200 for the adults and 100 percent of 150 or 180 for the youths. Try to keep the handicap base as close as possible to the average of the best bowler to avoid giving any team an excessive amount. If any averages exceed the base figure, a rule should be adopted stating they will be given minus handicap.

164 May youths become officers?

There is no set rule to cover this situation. YABA's policy is that anyone who is able to do the job and meets the criteria may be elected. To be the treasurer, for example, they have to meet the minimum age requirements as set by state laws and financial institutions.

165 May the adults in the league smoke or drink alcohol?

Adult leaders in a YABA program must follow Rule 802, which includes the statement "Use of tobacco products in the area where YABA athletes are competing is prohibited." This applies to official coaches, the league official and league supervisor as listed on the YABA league sanction application. Although YABA prefers that other adults in the vicinity of youth bowlers refrain from smoking or drinking, it is up to the league or center to set a more comprehensive rule or policy.

166 Youths want to join an adult trophy league that has no cash prizes. Must they purchase an ABC/WIBC card?

Rule 101a states when a league includes both youths and adults and does not offer merchandise awards valued over \$50 or cash or bonds, only adult members are required to pay membership fees. Thus, youths could bowl in the league using their YABA card unless the league requires they purchase an ABC/WIBC card. (See Rule 400)

YOUTH BOWLING

167 My son quit bowling in YABA a year ago and is currently bowling in an ABC/WIBC league. Now he would like to bowl with the school in a YABA league. How can he get YABA membership?

He can apply by sending a letter requesting membership to YABA. YABA will contact the local association for additional information. After review of the information, YABA decides whether or not to grant membership. The individual is not allowed to compete in YABA sanctioned leagues or tournaments until membership is granted. (See Rule 800)

168 My son wants to bowl in our ABC sanctioned league where money is awarded; can this jeopardize his YABA or high school eligibility?

Youth bowlers would not be able to bowl in an adult league that has any type of cash award. It is not a question of whether or not they are collecting prize money in the league; it is whether or not any member in the league collects prize money.

If eligibility for a high school league were an issue, we advise the youth bowler to contact the High School Association regarding their high school sports eligibility. You can find out more information and who to contact at www.highschoolbowlingusa.com. If there is concern about eligibility for an academic scholarship, the person should contact the individual issuing the scholarship.

169 Our center is starting a league that will give NFL jackets to all members who remain the full 30 weeks. The jackets will cost over \$100. Can my children join with me without violating their YABA eligibility?

Yes, since receiving the jacket has nothing to do with bowling skill, score or position standing. Actually, the league members are paying toward the cost of the jacket in league fees each week. The same holds true for ball, bike or merchandise leagues as long as they follow Rule 400 and every bowler receives the same item.

170 Some of the teams in my daughter's league have sponsors who give them bowling shirts and help with other expenses. Is this acceptable?

Yes, however YABA would prefer the entire league be sponsored so each team is treated the same. Sponsors can cover normal expenses, such as providing team shirts, travel expenses to tournaments, etc.

171 In my son's league, there are many youths who win money playing bingo. One boy has won quite a bit of money in golf tournaments. Doesn't this affect his YABA eligibility?

No, YABA eligibility is determined only by what they do when bowling. Bingo and golf have nothing to do with bowling, therefore, it does not affect their YABA status.

172 My son's coach moved and the league may have to disband since no one will take his place. I know quite a bit about bowling, but have had no formal training. Could I become the coach?

Yes. Although YABA prefers trained coaches, the first requirement is that you want to work with the youths. You may step in as coach, with the center's permission, and then take the training when it becomes available.

173 My son bowls in a league with four-member teams, but his team has only three members and a vacancy. Should his team meet the legal lineup requirement for a three-member team, how will their vacancy score be determined?

Since the league is sanctioned with four members on a team, all teams must meet the four-member requirement even if they do not have four regular members.

According to YABA Rule 608, the vacancy score will be the average of the lowest average bowler on the opposing team. This is used unless the league rules specify a constant vacancy score.

174 As the youth director in a center, I would like to place every youth on a team. However, by mid-season, many teams must forfeit for lack of a legal lineup. What can I do about this?

YABA suggests you do not place every youth on a team. In youth leagues, you need substitutes for those who drop out or can't make it every week. Use the number you had when the league ended last season as the basis for this season's league.

Sign up other youths as roving substitutes and let them bowl every week. If they are not needed on a team, they can bowl on lanes adjacent to the league or add one per pair with the teams. Their scores won't count toward the team total, but they can bowl for average and awards. Having them replace bowlers who drop out will avoid forfeits and enable them to join a team with an established average.

175 Our youth league has such low awards fees, we can't open a bank account as required. What can we do about this situation?

When a league's funds are too small to meet banking requirements, we suggest they request the center to set up in-house banking, perhaps combined with other leagues. If this is done, the funds must be deposited in a separate account, and the center must provide monthly accounting to the league.

176 I have been told my son must pay lineage each week even if he is absent. Is this permitted in a youth league?

Many centers have guaranteed leagues, requiring youth bowlers to pay lineage if they are absent, just as in adult leagues. Such a contract cannot be made between youths under 18 and the center. If the proprietor wants to have a guaranteed league, they should send a letter to the bowler's parents/legal guardian when the league starts. The parent/guardian should sign and return the letter stating they will be responsible for the lineage as a condition of their child joining the league.

If a league member is behind in paying league fees, the league has the authority to prohibit them from competing until the arrearage is paid.

177 A boy quit my son's team owing fees for several weeks. Now he has joined a league in another center. Can anything be done to prevent such incidents?

As the boy is not an adult, he cannot be forced to repay the money; however, he can be suspended for nonpayment of league fees, which violates YABA Rule 605. If your son's coach cannot get the money, the league must follow the procedures outlined in Rule 115b.

178 A girl joined my daughter's league and bowled only two games, then quit. How will they determine her handicap to calculate team standings, as she never established an average?

According to YABA Rule 606, youth bowlers establish their average based on the games bowled in their first league session, regardless of the number. Thus, her average and handicap will be computed using those two games.

179 As a coach in a league other than my children's, can I grant permission and supervise my children's unopposed prebowling or postponement?

No, your child must have permission from an adult official from her league to pre-bowl or for a postponement. The fact you are a coach does not meet the requirement of the rule.

180 Can an individual or team bowl unopposed for prebowl games or postponements?

Yes. YABA Rule 611 allows for both individuals and teams to bowl unopposed.

Etiquette Information

Here are a few simple guidelines to help make your bowling experience more pleasurable.

Be ready to bowl when the pins are set. Do not bowl until the pinsetting machine has completed its cycle and the sweepbar is raised, otherwise you may damage the ball or machine.

Do not use another player's ball without their permission.

Do not take too long to aim or get set up when you are on the approach.

Stay on your approach while delivering the ball. Return to the settee area after making each delivery.

Observe one lane courtesy. The bowler on the right should bowl if both reach the approach at the same time. Stay off the approach while you wait.

Good bowling requires concentration. Bowlers should always keep in mind that when others are preparing to bowl, excessive movement or noise could be distracting. When a player is ready to bowl, give them the courtesy of making their shot without interference, as you will want the same courtesy when it is your turn.

Excessive "lofting" hurts your game and damages the lane.

Refrain from using abusive language or obscene gestures.

Play the game to win, but be a gracious loser.

Remember, good sportsmanship is always the key to a successful game.

Parental Consent Form

I, _____, am the parent or legal guardian of _____, an unmarried grade or high school student under the age of 18. I understand that by signing this form I am authorizing them to bowl, substitute, or pace in ABC/WIBC sanctioned competition.

By signing this form I verify I have read and reviewed YABA Rule 400 (see below). I agree and understand that when my child competes in ABC/WIBC competition where merchandise valued over \$50, or any cash and/or bonds are awarded to any participant, my child is in direct violation of YABA Rule 400. I am aware that rejection of any prizes does not prevent the violation of Rule 400.

I recognize that by bowling, substituting, or pacing in competition, which violates Rule 400, their amateur status may be jeopardized. I understand that to ensure compliance with high school and collegiate rules I should check with a compliance officer and/or academic counselor at their school.

This form must be submitted to the league secretary or tournament manager at least one week prior to participation, unless the youth is accompanied by their parent or guardian. This form must be submitted to EACH league or tournament the youth enters.

Parental Signature: _____

Date: _____

Rule 400. For membership in the YABA, individuals shall not have reached their 22nd birthday on or before August 1, of the current bowling season. The age limitation is waived for those authorized as mentally challenged.

If a YABA member participates in any bowling activity recognized by their State High School Athletic Association, the more restrictive eligibility rule (YABA or State High School Athletic Association) will apply.

Youth bowlers must not bowl, substitute or pace in any bowling activity where any of the participants are:

- a. Involved in any form of gambling.
- b. Awarded any amount of cash or bonds for bowling accomplishments.
- c. Awarded prizes exceeding \$50 in value, not including costs for engraving, lettering, postage and/or tax. Buying or selling of earned awards is prohibited.

Cash or prizes CANNOT be waived to allow the youth to participate.

Penalty: Membership may be suspended or denied to any youth bowler who participates in any activity involving Items a, b and c above. (See Rule 800 for disciplinary procedures.)

NOTE: Holding ABC/WIBC membership does not violate Rule 400.

Contact Us

At Bowling Headquarters



Local association officials can reach Bowling Headquarters staff via e-mail, fax or calling (800) 514-BOWL (2695) and pressing *8, a four-digit extension below, and the # sign:

<u>For Questions About:</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>	<u>Phone Ext.</u>	<u>Fax # (414)</u>
Awards	award@bowlinginc.com	3151	421-8560
Bonding, Theft or Burglary	bonding@bowlinginc.com	3156	421-1650
Bowling History, Statistics or Records	pr@bowlinginc.com	3159	421-3013
Bylaws/Constitution, Tax Information	assnrel@bowlinginc.com	3158	421-1650
Coaching	coaching@bowlinginc.com	3169	421-9188
College Bowling USA	cbusa@bowlinginc.com	3179	421-1301
Equipment Specifications and Lane Certification	specs@bowlinginc.com	3172	423-3258
Field Services	fieldservices@bowlinginc.com	3163	421-1650
Membership	membership@bowlinginc.com	3152	421-8560
General Info., Supplies, Merchandise, Lost/Replacement Cards	bowlinfo@bowlinginc.com	3161	421-8560
National Tournaments			
ABC	abctourn@bowlinginc.com	3170	421-9320
WIBC	wibctournament@bowlinginc.com	3173	421-9789
YABA	yababowling@bowlinginc.com	3171	421-1301
Other Tournaments	tournaments@bowlinginc.com	3157	421-1650
Pepsi Youth Bowling Championships	ybctourn@bowlinginc.com	3171	421-1301
Rules of the Game and Disputes	rulesstaff@bowlinginc.com	3155	421-1650
Sanctioning of Tournaments	toursancs@bowlinginc.com	3157	421-1650
SMART	smart@bowlinginc.com	3168	421-3014
Junior Gold Program	juniorgold@bowlinginc.com	3471	421-1301
Junior Gold Championships	goldchamp@bowlinginc.com	3442	421-1301
WinLABS	labshelp@bowlinginc.com	3431	421-1650
Sport Bowling	SportBowling@bowlinginc.com	3321	421-1650