

# Men's Division Rules

*(Bold denotes changes made in 2008)*

## RULE 1 - DISTRICT SETUP & BOWLING SCHEDULE

1. The District/Regional Secretary is authorized to set the schedule, bowling dates and sites either through coordination with proprietors or by witnessed draw. The Board of Directors shall decide the method. The Secretary must post the schedule and submit a copy to the President of TCBA by the second bowling date of the season.
2. Each sponsoring bowling center will be guaranteed at least one host date. If the host dates have not been filled in the first round, the secretary will go back through the list of sponsors that have sponsored more than one team until the host dates are filled. If the host dates have not been filled in the second round, the secretary will go back through the list of sponsors that have sponsored more than two teams, then three teams, and so on. The league will fulfill its obligation to the hosting centers using this method. If host stops are remaining after all hosting centers have received their host dates, the remaining stops will be selected by a method determined by the league Board of Directors. If there are more host centers than host dates, the host center not receiving a stop will receive the host stop owed to them before the first round of the next season, provided they are still a sponsoring center. Under no circumstances will a non-sponsoring center, nor a sponsoring center outside your region be allowed to receive a host stop.
3. A single TCBA Men's district will be comprised of no less than six (6) teams and no more than eleven (11) teams. Two or more single districts may merge to form a region and thus bowl a joint schedule. A region shall be formed when two or more single districts elect the same person to serve as secretary. Under no circumstances shall a bye be used to complete a single district at the beginning of a season.
4. All district schedules must begin no sooner than the first weekend of August and no later than the second weekend of August. The schedule must be completed no later than the first weekend in April. (A waiver to this rule may be granted by the President of TCBA with approval of the Executive Board).
5. Every franchise must represent a city in addition to the sponsor's credit.
6. The District/Region Board of Directors must decide by vote which city association the league application shall be filed.
7. If a bowling center is unable to fulfill its obligation to TCBA for any reason, that franchise will revert back to TCBA. The district or region will then fill that date on their schedule in accordance with Rule 1.2. If a region originally had more host centers than dates, it may assign the open date to that center, or conduct a drawing between centers if more than one center is involved. If there is a house available within that houses business system, (example: Triangle, All Star, etc), the house may assign their stop to one of the other houses within that system. The house must be a TCBA sponsor to receive the assignment.

## RULE 2 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORITY

The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the district, and shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and all Team Captains. Each member is entitled to one vote only. In single member districts, the President will appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms. In the event that two or more districts form a region, the Board of directors shall consist of a Region President, Region Vice President, Region Secretary/Treasurer, a President from each district and all Team Captains. This will be known as the Region Board of Directors. In regions, the Region President shall have the option of appointing a Region Sergeant-at-Arms or directing the District Presidents to appoint one from each district. In any event, the Region President may designate one member to act as Region Sergeant-at-Arms. Refer to USBC Rule book for duties of officers of the league.

## PROTESTS - TIME LIMIT

The Board may declare forfeited, or null and void, any protest or disputed games by 51% of a quorum of directors present (51% of the directors constitutes a quorum). Any protest by a member must be filed as a written protest to the District Secretary no later than fifteen (15) days after the series in which the infraction occurred has been bowled. The Board must hold a meeting within 30 days of the protest date, rule on the protest and if a forfeit is decided, it can cover only the 15-day period and not be retroactive beyond that period.

## RULE 3 - FEE REQUIREMENTS

1. Bowling fees will be left to the discretion of each district.
2. All teams are required to register with TCBA on the opening day of the season. The District/Region Secretary is required to collect the **\$150.00** team membership dues by the start of the second bowling date. If money is not paid in full, all games that date and subsequent dates, or until such time as the membership dues are paid will be forfeited.
3. The Secretary's salary shall be a minimum of 35 cents per bowler per 3-game session bowled payable to same per session unless the Board of Directors authorizes all payments at the completion of the season.
4. All teams shall pay the last two bowling dates by February 1st.
5. Team captains are responsible for full fees being placed in envelopes each session. There are to be no arrearages in this league. Should any team be in arrears one (1) session, the team shall forfeit all points which will not be returned to them even after arrearages shall have been made up, except covered by USBC rules.
6. The team captain shall divide all District team prize money between all team members according to verbal or written agreements.

#### RULE 4 - FRANCHISE FEE & REQUIREMENTS

1. The franchise fee shall be **\$115.00** per season. No bowling center may sponsor more than two (2) teams in the same district.
2. The team franchise will be held by the team captain as long as he is acceptable to the majority of the Board of Directors. The team captain and the sponsor are to operate the franchise jointly with the final decision of all matters remaining with the team captain. The team captain is responsible for the conduct and financial condition of the team during league and tournament play.
3. A team sponsor must pay the franchise fee no later than June 1st, before each new season, to be guaranteed the spot.
4. The District or Regional Secretary and President of TCBA will jointly accept/reject any franchise application.
5. No bowling establishment shall have two or more sponsored teams with the same basic names, such as Team No. 1 or Team No. 2. Each team must have different names if the sponsor is the same.
6. Every bowling establishment which directly sponsors team(s) by paying **\$115.00** franchise per team is entitled to an appropriate amount of host dates to be scheduled accordingly and fairly by the District/Regional Secretary. Every franchise will be of equal value in the number of host dates entitled to the bowling sponsor, if available.

#### RULE 5 – ENTERING AVERAGES

##### A. Individuals (Other than PBA Members)

1. Members will enter TCBA competition with either their final TCBA average of 21 games or more (as requested by the President, but not earlier than March 15th), or an adjusted average if their highest current association book average is 15 or more pins higher than their final TCBA average. The adjusted average will be calculated by subtracting 15 pins from that association book average. All current associations in which a bowler has a 21 game or more average will be considered. Highest average will be used. Penalty for using the wrong entering average is disqualification from TCBA competition for the remainder of the year for the individual and the team he is on. Failure to correctly verify average by the Secretary will result in disciplinary action, i.e. intentional misrepresentation or verification by the Secretary of a bowler's average will result in disqualification from TCBA competition for the remainder of the year for that Secretary. Unintentional misrepresentation or verification by the Secretary of a bowler's average will result in probation for the remainder of the year. Unintentional/intentional misrepresentation or verification by the Secretary will be determined by that Region's Board of Directors.
2. 165 is the minimum entering average allowed in TCBA.
3. Persons that do not have a TCBA average of 21 game or more from the previous season, must enter TCBA competition with one of the following:
  - a. **Highest current association book, or if none, a verifiable winter league average of 21 or more games. All current associations in which bowler has a 21 or more games average will be considered. Highest will be used.**
  - b. **An assigned 165 entering average for any bowler whose previous season's high association book or verifiable winter average of 21 or more games is 164 or less.**
  - c. **An assigned 200 if a bowler has no current association winter book average nor current winter average of 21 or more games. The bowler will use 200 as his entering average for a minimum of 21 games. His current average will be computed following the session in which the 21st game occurred to establish a new entering average reflecting the 21 or more games bowled.**
  - d. **Highest current YABA association book average of 21 or more games or current winter average of 21 games or more.**

##### B. Individuals (PBA TOURING MEMBERS)

1. PBA members may compete in TCBA competition. (For the purpose of this rule, a PBA member is any member that has had a PBA Exempt Member status within the last six years. The following conditions will apply:
  - a. Only one (1) PBA exempt member per team.
  - b. To enter, the bowler must have a certified league average of 21 or more games in the current association book.
  - c. **These bowlers must enter TCBA with a minimum average of 200 or a current USBC association book average of 21 or more games, or if none a verifiable winter certified league average of 21 or more games from the current season, whichever is highest.**
  - d. If a bowler's average has been adjusted by the TCBA Tournament Committee, the bowler's entering average for the next season will be the highest of the following:
    - i. (1) Final TCBA average, or as requested by the President of 21 or more games (but not earlier than March 15th)
    - ii. (2) If no TCBA average of 21 or more games, highest current association book average of 21 or more games.
    - iii. (3) Adjusted average.
    - iv. (4) Assigned average from Rule 5.

### C. Individuals (All members)

1. If a bowler's average has been adjusted by the TCBA Tournament Committee, the bowler's entering average for the next season will be the highest of the following:
  - a. Final TCBA average, or as requested by the President of 21 or more games (but not earlier than March 15th).
  - b. If no TCBA average of 21 or more game, high association book average from the current winter season of 21+ games.
  - c. Adjusted average.
  - d. Assigned average from Rule 5.

### D. Team

1. Each member will use his entering average for a minimum of 12 games in TCBA competition. His current average will be computed following the session in which the 12th game occurred.
2. Bowlers with no current 21 game association book average from the prior winter season will continue to use 200 or their current average whichever is higher, as their current average for a minimum of 21 games of TCBA competition. His current average will be computed following the session in which the 21st game occurred.
3. The TCBA will operate on a 1025 maximum team entering average system. The combined entering averages of any five (5) member lineup cannot exceed 1025 at any time during the season or playoffs. Violations of this rule will result in zero pinfall for the team each game an illegal lineup is used.
4. A team's current average may legally exceed 1025 as long as the team operates under the guidelines of TCBA Rule 5 - Team, Item 3.

### **RULE 6 - TEAM HANDICAP**

1. Handicap will be based on 90% of the difference in contesting teams' current averages. The team with the lower average will receive the handicap. The team with the higher average will receive zero (0) handicap. All handicap is figured from a base of 825. Maximum handicap will be 180 pins per game (540 pins per series).
2. In figuring averages for purposes of determining the handicap, only the current averages of the members in the lineup are to be used, even if the member's current average is below 165. Individual averages of all members must be based on actual pin fall.

### **RULE 7 - ADDING & DROPPING TEAM MEMBERS**

#### Team Roster

1. A team is allowed to carry up to an 8-man roster throughout the season provided all members meet the requirements of Rule 5-1 (Entering Averages). It is the team captain's responsibility to supply the District/Region secretary with verified average proof through either association yearbook or a city association letterhead. It is the District/Region Secretary's authority not to accept any bowler into TCBA until he is satisfied that the average information submitted is authentic or verified. The District/Region Secretary is directed by TCBA to have on record a visible form of average verification on all bowlers who had 21+ average from the prior winter season, before he can legally accept them into the district/region for active competition. Any team captain who fails to supply average verification to the District/Region Secretary of any bowler (with an average) actually used in a lineup will be subject to action under Rule 2 (Protest-Time Limit).
2. Once a player has bowled his 1st ball in league play, and is reported to the secretary as "dropped" from the team roster, he cannot return to that team for the balance of the season. However, any member dropped from a roster in good standing with the TCBA may, once per season, legally join another team in any district providing the following requirements are met:
  - a. Same district - at least 36 games remain to be bowled on the schedule and the District Board of Directors (the team captains in that particular district) vote UNANIMOUSLY to approve the action.
  - b. Other district - at least 36 games remain to be bowled on the schedule and both district Board of Directors approve the change majority vote.
3. A bowler is not considered a member of a team until he has delivered his first ball in TCBA competition. A bowler with no games bowled on a team's roster may be dropped and rejoin the same team during the season.

### **RULE 8 - ELIGIBILITY**

1. No TCBA member may bowl in more than one district at a time in a single season. Penalty is forfeiture of all prize money and elimination from any further TCBA competition for that season.
2. The men's division of TCBA is open to male bowlers only and closed to all others.
3. All members of the TCBA men's division shall be required to purchase a current USBC membership card on their initial date of bowling, with these exceptions:
  - a. You are certified thru the PBA as a current PBA member.
  - b. You purchased an USBC card at the State Tournament.
  - c. You purchased an USBC card in a current summer league.
  - d. You already have a current membership card through another Association or league.
4. New players cannot be added to a team's roster in the final four (4) sets of the district schedule and only those roster members having bowled 12 or more games that season are eligible to bowl the final four (4) sets of the season.

## **RULE 9 - LEGAL LINEUPS**

1. A legal lineup is any lineup in which entering averages total 1025 or under.
2. Any team that fails to have at least three (3) members present at the start of the 2nd frame will forfeit all points until a legal lineup is present to bowl. A \$25.00 fine will be assessed against the forfeiting team.
3. Any team that cannot attend a regularly scheduled match due to a legitimate emergency situation, has the right to appeal a forfeit to their Board of Directors, who will decide the matter by a majority vote. Bowling in tournaments, (except USBC City, USBC State or USBC National) or going on vacations does not constitute an emergency.
4. No pacers or substitutes are allowed in a team lineup. All TCBA members must be registered with the District/Region Secretary.

## **RULE 10 - POSTPONED OR PRE BOWLED GAMES**

The Secretary shall determine what is sufficient cause to grant a postponement or pre bowl. All postponements must be requested to the Secretary at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled time and date of the match, except in the case of emergencies. Postponements granted by the Secretary will be administered within the guidelines of USBC Rules.

The games should be made up prior to the next bowl date, and will be bowled in the same bowling center as originally scheduled, with a District Board Director present to witness and return the recaps to the Secretary.

### Bowling Unopposed

The District/Region Secretary must notify the opposing team of the postponement grant. The opposing team will have the option of requesting the Secretary to make arrangements for a head-to-head match, or they may bowl unopposed on the regular scheduled date, with the scores closed except to the District Secretary. If a team is going to be bowling unopposed, those games "must" be bowled prior to the next bowling date.

### Cancellation of District Play

The District/Region Secretary shall determine what is sufficient cause to grant a postponement of a scheduled district bowling date due to inclement weather, acts of God, etc., and is responsible for notifying all team captains by phone no later than four hours before the scheduled time of bowling if a cancellation is decided necessary.

## **RULE 11 - FORFEITS - PENALTY AND PROCEDURE**

1. Any team that fails to have at least three (3) members present at the start of the second (2nd) frame shall forfeit all games until such time as a legal lineup is present. The team present must follow USBC Rules forfeits and must bowl within 75 pins of their current team average per game (within 225 pins per series) to receive the points for that set.
2. If, when two teams are bowling in competition with one another, and it is discovered during or after the match, that one team presented an illegal lineup, the games shall be declared forfeited and the other team awarded the points for that set, without regard to game or series score.

**NOTE:** As per USBC, if a team has less than a full lineup present (less than 5 members), only the members present will be required to bowl within 15 pins of their average per game to receive the points for those games.

## **RULE 12 - VACANCY AND ABSENTEE SCORES**

1. The absentee score for all bowlers shall be the bowler's current average less 35 pins. The lineup for handicapping purposes will be the bowler with the most games bowled on the team that is not present. If two (2) or more bowlers have the same amount of games, then the team must use the highest average not present. In the event the bowler not present with the most games has an entering average that causes the team to exceed the maximum allowable entering average for that lineup, then rotate down to the highest average not to exceed the maximum legal entering average.
2. The vacancy score shall be 165 for entering average, handicap computation and game score.

## **RULE 13 - LATE ARRIVAL**

Bowlers arriving after the start of the TCBA competition, but before the opposing team's lead off man has delivered his first ball of the 5th frame, may bowl any game, beginning with the first frame.

## **RULE 14 - POINT SYSTEM**

1. Standings shall be determined on a point basis, with one point awarded for each game won and one point for high team series in each match.
2. Each district must bowl the total of 108 games per team to achieve 144 combined points.

## **RULE 15 - UNIFORM ATTIRE**

Captains are responsible for obtaining uniform team bowling shirts from their franchise sponsor, commercial sponsor or buy their own. All shirts must include the standard TCBA patch to be worn by all TCBA members on the front side, right chest. On the back side of the shirts, each team must also have the name of the sponsor, city and state which it represents. District Champion patches will be sewn on the left sleeve.

## **RULE 16 - FINES**

1. All members must have their sponsor shirts (with patches sewn on) by October 1 of each season. If not, a fine of \$3.00 per bowler will be solicited on all shirtless or patch less members, or both, by the Sergeant-At-Arms and all fines will be turned over to the District/Region Secretary and deposited in the point kitty. Any new members added after October 1, must have a sponsored shirt within 30 days of his first bowling session or be fined. Fines not voluntarily paid at the time of infraction will be recorded by the Sergeant-At-Arms and the fines will be taken from the team's point money payback at the end of the season.
2. Any team that fails to field at least three members at the start of the 2nd frame of TCBA competition will be fined \$25.00 against their point money. (See Legal lineup Rule 9)

## **RULE 17 - DISTRICT/REGION MONEY & BONDING**

1. The account shall read: Traveling Classic Bowling Association, District/Region, in which funds will be deposited after each session.
2. This account shall be set up in the city of the secretary's residence and must include a two-signature withdrawal (President or Vice President and Secretary). The President is required to verify the balance each month to ensure bonding of the account by USBC.

The games should be made up prior to the next bowl date, and will be bowled in the same bowling center as originally scheduled, with a District Board Director present to witness and return the recaps to the Secretary.

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### Cancellation of District Play

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## **RULE 18 - UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT - COURSE OF ACTION**

1. In the event of UNSPORTSMANLIKE conduct by a league member at any time during league play, a Board of Directors meeting can be called by any member to notify the Board that he is bringing charges against the bowler for suspension upon the action. The District Secretary must notify the charged bowler by registered letter that a meeting will be conducted by the Board of Directors to hear the charges and decide whether the Board will file for suspension. The letter must invite the charged bowler to the meeting so he may offer a defense before the Board's ruling is made. If the Board's verdict is to suspend the bowler, the District Secretary must submit a letter to that effect to the city bowling association of which the bowler is a member, and to TCBA Headquarters.
2. This rule shall become the initial warning in all cases. Team Captains must make their members aware of the rules. Ignorance of the rules is no excuse.
3. Define unsportsmanlike conduct as nonphysical conduct among members, not resulting in injury. Define misconduct as physical conduct among members whether resulting in injury or not, and nonphysical conduct, resulting in injury.
4. Unsportsmanlike conduct course of action:
  - a. First (1st) offense unsportsmanlike conduct carries an immediate and automatic \$5.00 fine. If not paid, that bowler may not bowl until fine is paid. In the event of a successful appeal, fine will be returned. Appeals must be made within 15 days.
  - b. Second (2nd) offense of unsportsmanlike conduct carries an automatic suspension of that member for the balance of that date and the next bowling date.
  - c. Any member committing more than two (2) offenses will be turned over to the Regional or District Board of Directors for possible suspension.
5. Misconduct - course of action
  - a. First (1st) offense misconduct carries an automatic suspension pending inquiry by the Board of Directors. Inquiry must be held within 15 days. If suspension is upheld, that bowler shall be suspended for the length of time determined by the Board of Directors. Any appeal must be made in writing within 15 days. Suspension is not to exceed two (2) bowling dates.

## **RULE 19 - DISTRICT PLAYOFF TO BREAK TIES**

1. Total pins in a series of three (3) games shall determine the winners of any playoff for first place. A match must be bowled in a neutral house within the district/region with the District/Region Secretary present.
2. The first place roll off must be bowled within 48 hours of the end of the regular season.
3. If a tie shall exist after a total pins series has been bowled, a "sudden death" tenth frame will be bowled off and the team with the most pinfall will be the District Champion.

## LEAGUE POLICY

Proper lane courtesy should be maintained at all times. A bowler should wait for one (1) lane on either side before he delivers his ball. However, under no circumstances will a bowler wait for two pair (4 lanes) on either side as this will delay the league. If two bowlers on a pair of lanes are ready to bowl at the same time, the bowler to the right will bowl first. When two bowlers on adjacent pairs of lanes are ready to bowl at the same time, the bowler to the right shall be given the courtesy of bowling first. All bowlers should know and exercise proper lane courtesy at all times. Your bowling will be faster, and much more enjoyable if everyone is just a little more courteous toward the other bowler.

### POINT VALUES FOR THE BOWLER OF THE YEAR

GAME		SERIES	
225 – 249	25 points	575 – 624	25 points
250 – 274	50 points	625 – 649	50 points
275 – 297	100 points	650 – 674	100 points
298	298 points	675 – 699	200 points
299	299 points	700	300 points
300	500 points	800	500 points
		Plus 1 additional point for each pin over 700	
		Example: 711	311 points
District Winners			100 points