

# Women's Division Rules

(Bold denotes changes made in 2008)

## RULE 1 - DISTRICT SETUP AND BOWLING SCHEDULE

1. The Regional Secretary is authorized to set the schedule date and bowling sites either by witnessed draw or through coordination with proprietors. 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, the secretary will go back through the list of sponsors that have sponsored more than one team until the host dates are filled. If there are too many sponsors in the second round the host dates will be selected by draw. Those sponsors not receiving a second host date, but sponsoring more than one team will be used the following year for the second round before a drawing is used. This method will be used when subsequent rounds are needed.
3. A region consists of those districts that operate under the same secretary.
4. All region schedules must begin no sooner than the first week of August and no later than the third weekend of August. The schedule must be completed no later than the second weekend in April. (A waiver to this rule may be granted by the President of TCBA with approval of the Executive Board).
5. A single TCBA district will be comprised of no less than four (4) teams. Regions may bowl a joint schedule during the season.
6. Every franchise must represent a city in addition to the sponsor's credit.
7. The District/Region Board of Directors must decide by vote in which city association the league application shall be filed.
8. 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 house's business system, 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

1. The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the region and shall consist of a Regional President, Regional Vice President, Regional Secretary/Treasurer, Regional Sergeant-at-Arms, all team captains and one delegate from each district. (A delegate's only duty is to canvas members and have them submit any proposals to the rules committee, and to represent the members at the Annual Council of Delegates Meeting)
2. The Board of Directors must decide upon all disputes, complaints or protests relating to any controversy or violation in the region involving USBC or TCBA rules.
3. The Board may declare forfeited, or null and void, any protests or disputed games by a majority vote (one vote over one-half of total votes).
4. All officers' duties are listed in the USBC Rule Book and shall include over and above these, the following TCBA duties for the designated office:

### SGT-AT-ARMS

Shall collect all fines imposed upon any league members who fail to wear shirts or patches after the October 1st deadline. Any new member has thirty (30) days from date of entry into the league to secure shirt and patch, after which time a fifty (50) cents fine for patch, \$3.00 fine for shirt shall apply. Shall collect \$1.00 fine for each instance of derogatory conduct or language and shall maintain order in league. Shall count any hand vote and be chairman of any written vote taken in the league. Shall forward to the secretary and/or treasurer all fine monies collected, upon receipt, for even distribution to all teams at the end of the league season. She shall also report any special activity or achievement within her league, along with appropriate photographs, to the President of TCBA.

### SECRETARY

Shall prepare all standing sheets, keep all records of team wins and losses. Shall prepare league schedule for year and give copy of such to all members of league on opening day. Shall forward to TCBA Headquarters the preceding month's standing sheet, Bowler of the Year and Most Valuable Bowler points. These shall be due no later than the fifth (5th) of each month.

### TREASURER

Shall collect and forward to the President of TCBA the **\$150.00** team membership dues. The membership dues must be collected by the start of the second bowling date. If membership dues have not been paid in full by that date, all games that date and subsequent dates (or until money is paid) will be forfeited and will remain forfeited for the remainder of the season. Shall collect all weekly league fees, pay lineage, compute prize money and distribute prize money to team captains at the end of league play and/or sweeper day.

## RULE 3 - FEES

1. Bowling fees will be left to the discretion of each region.
2. Team captains are responsible for full fees being placed in envelopes each session. Envelopes must be then given to the Secretary and/or Treasurer. There are to be no arrearages in this league. Should any team be in arrears one (1) date, the team shall forfeit all points which will not be returned to them even after arrearages shall have been made up, except as covered by USBC rules.
3. The team captain shall divide all district team prize money according to verbal or written agreements.
4. The Secretary/Treasurer shall receive a minimum of thirty-five (35) cents per bowler each three (3) game session and is payable for same each session.

5. **The TCBA Team Registration Fee is \$150.00 and is due in full to the Regional Secretary/Treasurer by the second bowling date.** The team fee covers the full 8 member roster strength for each team.
6. The final bowling date of the season must be paid in advance no later than the first (1st) bowling date in March of the bowling year.

#### **RULE 4 - FRANCHISE**

1. **The franchise fee shall be \$115.00 per team.** The franchise will be held by the team captain as long as she is acceptable to the majority of the Board of Directors. It is the responsibility of the team captain to solicit a franchise sponsor through a commercial firm, bowling establishment or as an independent group posting \$20.00 per bowler to achieve the same.
2. The team captain and sponsor are to operate the franchise jointly with the decisions on all questions remaining with the team captain. The team captain is responsible for the conduct and financial status of her team during league play.
3. No bowling or commercial establishment shall have sponsored teams with the same name (such as No. 1 and No. 2). Each team must have an identification that cannot be confused with another team. A bowling center sponsored team will receive host dates for each franchise paid to TCBA if possible. A commercial team will receive no host dates and will not be affiliated with any house team.

#### **RULE 5 - UNIFORM & FINES**

1. Captains are responsible for obtaining uniform team bowling shirts from their franchise sponsor, commercial or if neither, buy their own. All shirts must include the standard TCBA patch to be worn by all TCBA members, to be sewn (not pinned) on the front side, right chest. On the back side of the shirt, each team must have the sponsor, city, and state it represents. All teams must have bowling shirts by October 1 of each season. (If mailing or lettering should hold up receipt of shirt, the fine may be waived temporarily if proof of purchase is shown). If failure to comply with either (i.e. no shirt, no patch or both) a fine of \$3.50 will be imposed. In the case of refusal to pay on the bowling date involved, it shall be deducted from the team prize monies at the end of the league year.
2. Appropriate attire only will be worn while bowling in TCBA functions. Pregnant ladies shall not be fined when they can no longer wear their sponsor's bowling shirt. However, they must wear the TCBA patch on their blouse. Each region must address the words "appropriate attire" in their own league rules. Anyone violating this rule will be fined \$3.00.
3. Derogatory conduct or language shall be subject to \$1.00 fine for each offense.
4. The TCBA team shirt reflecting the Team Sponsor and TCBA may not be covered with coats, sweaters or similar outer wear while the bowler is completing a frame of competition nor while the bowler remains in the scorekeeping/pit area. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$3.00.
5. District champion patches will be sewn on the left sleeve.

#### **RULE 6 - AWARD QUALIFICATION**

1. Bowlers must have bowled two-thirds (2/3) of the season to qualify for Bowler of the Year or Most Valuable Bowler awards.

#### **RULE 7 - ENTERING AVERAGES**

1. Individuals will use the same average maintained in the TCBA from the prior season, providing they finished with 21 or more games. All others shall use their highest league average of 21 games or more from the previous year (highest USBC or YABA book average). If a bowler has no average from a winter league, then use the highest USBC or YABA summer league average of 21 games or more. A bowler who has none of the above may use their last current book average going back no more than 2 years (highest USBC or YABA book average). If a bowler has none of the above, she may enter the league with a 150 average.  
Teams - The TCBA will operate on a no maximum - no minimum team entering average and no minimum or maximum handicap at any time during the season.
2. Each member will use her entering average for a minimum of 12 games in TCBA competition. Her current average will be computed following the 3 game set in which the 12th game occurs.

#### **RULE 8 - TEAM HANDICAP**

1. Teams - the handicap allowance shall be eighty (80%) percent of the difference in a team's current lineup average and the base of 1,000. If one team in a contest has a current team average over 1000, that team will award 100% of the overage back to the lower team. If both teams are over 1000 current average, 80% handicap of the difference will be awarded to the lower average team.
2. Handicap will remain the same for both three (3) game blocks unless a new member is added or will have completed twelve (12) games prior to completion of six (6) games.

## **RULE 9 - TEAM ROSTERS & AVERAGE PROOF**

1. A team is allowed to carry up to an 8-women roster through the season provided all members meet the requirement of Rule 7-1 (Entering Averages). It is the team captain's responsibility to supply the District/Regional Secretary with verified average proof through either an association yearbook or an association secretary letterhead. It is the District/Regional Secretary's authority not to accept any bowler into TCBA unless she is satisfied that the average information submitted is authentic or verified. The District/Regional Secretary is directed by TCBA to have on record a visible form of average verification on all bowlers before she can legally accept them into the district for active competition. Any team captain who fails to supply average verification to the District/Regional Secretary on any bowler actually used in a lineup will be subject to action under USBC, Rule 103 - Board of Directors Authority. The Board of Directors may declare forfeited or null and void any protested or disputed games.
2. No TCBA member may bowl in more than one district at a time in a single season.
3. Once a team member is officially dropped from the roster, that member may not bowl for any other team in the District for the remainder of the season unless she returns to her original team.
4. Any bowler dropped from a roster in good standing with the TCBA may legally join another team that same season in a different District/Region, provided there are still at least fifteen (15) games remaining on the schedule, but she must first obtain approval in writing of a majority of the Board of Directors of the District/Region she is leaving and also of a majority of the Board of Directors of the District/Region she will be joining.
5. New players cannot be added to a team's roster in the final two (2) dates or four (4) sets in the district schedule except under the provisions of USBC rules. Only those members having bowled fifteen (15) or more games that season are eligible to bowl the final four (4) sets of the season. No member may participate in the National Playoffs unless she has twenty-one (21) games to her credit.
6. The Traveling Classic does not allow pacers or substitutes.

## **RULE 10 - POSTPONEMENTS (PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW)**

1. The Regional President shall appoint a postponement committee, and they shall determine what is sufficient cause to grant a postponement. In the event of hazardous driving conditions or whatever emergency might occur, the Regional President and Secretary shall be responsible for reaching a decision and reporting the decision to all team captains (by telephone) at least four (4) hours prior to the scheduled time to bowl, unless time does not permit this.
2. If a team is unable to bowl at the regularly scheduled time the Regional Secretary must be notified at least 48 hours in advance, except for emergencies. The Postponement Committee shall determine whether there is sufficient reason to grant a postponement, but it cannot adopt a rule that would have the effect of not permitting any postponements. See USBC rules.
3. If a postponement is granted the Regional Secretary will notify the opposing team captain and the procedure outlined in USBC rules will be followed to schedule the postponed or unopposed match. When a team is authorized to prebowl or bowl unopposed, the Regional Secretary will inform the opposing team captains, giving them the opportunity to bowl the match head-to-head.
4. The teams involved have the option to request the Regional Secretary to arrange for a head-to-head makeup or to bowl unopposed. The scores of the team that bowls first will be kept by the Regional Secretary until the opposing team bowls. All game scores bowled by a team (bowling unopposed, before or after the regularly scheduled date) will not be made available to the opposing team until each game is bowled in succession.
5. Those games bowled at a date other than when the entire league is bowling shall count in the point factor for Bowler of the Year or the Most Valuable Bowler.
6. Postponements should be made up before the next bowling date in regions that bowl every other week (or 14 days, if it so applies).
7. Unopposed make ups must be made up before the next bowling date or two weeks, whichever is longer. Failure to bowl the unopposed makeup in this time frame will result in forfeit of the match unless the team was faced with an emergency situation, in which case the League Board of Directors shall give an extension.

## **RULE 11 - ABSENTEE SCORES**

Absentee scores shall be allowed when a team has a legal lineup but less than a full team at the beginning of any game in a series. The absentee score shall be ten (10) pins less than the absent member's average. The handicap shall be figured counting the actual average of the absentee. In the event a team shall not have a complete five (5) members present, but the legal lineup, the absentee score(s) shall be based on the member's average with the most games bowled, less ten (10) pins. If absentees have the same number of games, the highest average shall be used. Vacancy scores must be used until the member has actually bowled in the league this season.

## **RULE 12 - LATE ARRIVALS**

Player arriving after the opposing team's lead-off bowler has thrown her first (1st) ball in the fifth (5th) frame is ineligible to bowl that game.

## **RULE 13 - VACANCY SCORE**

Vacancy score shall be 150 at all times for those teams who can't field five (5) members at the start of the game.

**RULE 14 - FORFEITS**

A legal lineup shall be declared if three (3) members are present to bowl. Less than three by the completion of the first frame will be illegal and shall constitute forfeit of games involved. If a team draws a forfeit, the opposing team must still earn those points by bowling within 75 pins of their team average every game to win the points involved. If the team does not, neither team will be awarded the points and the point money involved will be put into the general coffer for all teams to share.

**RULE 15 - POINT SYSTEM**

1. The TCBA bowls on a four (4) point system - one (1) point for each game won and one (1) point for series win.
2. A replacement team shall assume the position standings of the original team.
3. Each district must bowl the total one hundred eight (108) games per team to achieve the one hundred forty-four (144) combined points.
4. Standings shall be based on the combined points won per team.

**RULE 16 - MISCELLANEOUS**

1. All scores of all bowlers must be added as soon as they are bowled, unless it is a string of strikes, whereby as soon as the string is finished the pin count will be added immediately.
2. No children shall be allowed in the pits at any time - only scorekeepers and bowlers.
3. Under no circumstances will the schedule be changed whereby one team would normally be bowling both sets on the same pair of lanes for the day, that is, if the position round is bowled on one pair, it may be that a team would in normal rotation be returning to the same pair. That is necessary as the districts are comprised of 4 teams and as you don't bowl a complete position round, but only district position rounds.

**RULE 17 - DISTRICT PLAYOFF TIES**

1. Total pins in a series of three (3) games shall determine the winners of any playoff for first (1st) place. If two (2) teams are tied at the end of the season, a match must be bowled in a neutral house within the district with the Regional Secretary present. The pair of lanes used will be selected by draw.
2. The first (1st) place roll-off must be bowled within forty-eight (48) hours of the end of the regular season. A forfeiture will be declared unless it conflicts with USBC rules.
3. If a tie still exists after regular bowling of three (3) game series, a "sudden death" tenth (10th) frame will be bowled off and the team with the most pinfall will be District Champions.
4. If more than two (2) teams finished tied for first (1st) place, the suggested USBC playoff rules will be used.
5. Scores bowled in such playoffs shall not count towards District awards or individual averages, but will count towards State (USBC) awards.

**WOMENS DIVISION BOWLER OF THE YEAR POINR VALUES**

GAME		SERIES	
200 – 224	25 points	550 – 574	25 points
225 – 249	50 points	575 – 599	50 points
250 – 274	100 points	600 – 624	100 points
275 - 299	1 points for each pin	625 – 649	200 points
300	500 points	650	300 points
		800	500 points
Example: 276	276 points	1 additional point for each pin over 650	
		Example: 677	317 points
District Winners			100 points