RULES EXTRA

A **Future** FOR THE **Sport**

Last month, we discussed league start-up and the rules changes for the 2023-2024 season.

If you missed last month's Rules Extra, please click here.

This month, we will discuss:
- Absentee and vacancy scores
- Prize lists
- Tools available to assist in your league operations

If you are no longer a league officer, please forward Rules Extra to newly elected officers if you have their email addresses so that they will be more knowledgeable in their new role.

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

LEAGUE RESOURCES

Absentee Score or Vacancy Score
The Rules team receives many calls about what score to use if a bowler on the roster is absent the first week of the schedule. Many believe you cannot use the absentee scores of a bowler until the person has bowled in the league. However, that is contrary to USBC Rule 112. The absentee score of a player on the roster is used unless the league rules require the vacancy score be used.

Absentee and Vacancy Scores

Prize lists
The president must appoint a prize committee and ensure the committee provides the league with at least one prize list for consideration by Week 5 (Rule 106a).

Bowlers often believe they must vote for one of the prize lists even if they do not agree with any of the choices. This causes many bowlers to vote for the prize list they can live with or not to vote at all. To allow bowlers to vote without settling for a prize list they do not like, each prize list presented by the committee should have a column for yes and no votes.

Prize Lists

League Tools from Rules
The [League Resources page](#) of BOWL.com is full of valuable information that Rules has produced to help your league operations run more smoothly. Here are some of the things that you will find on the League Resources Page:

- [League Operations Handbook](#)
- [How to Run Meetings](#)
- [Election Guidelines](#)
- [Audit Worksheets](#)
- [League Officer Duties](#)
- [How to Handle Protests](#)
- [League Finance Basics](#)
- [League Finance Verification Sheet](#)

League Resources

IN THE NEWS

Rule changes effective Aug. 1, 2023
The USBC Board has approved the addition of two (2) new rules to the General Playing Rules:

[Rule 4f](#) – Two-Handed Techniques - This rule clarifies the difference between a two-handed approach and a two-handed delivery.

[Rule 19](#) – String Pin Bowling - This rule explains the recognition of String Pin Bowling beginning August 1, 2023, when the center has string pinsetters that comply with USBC specifications. More information on string pinsetters and the work that led up to this decision can be found [here](#).

ATHLETE SAFETY/RVP

Athlete Safety/RVP

The U.S. Center for SafeSport policy states that any adult (18 years of age and older) who participates with minors (17 years of age and under) must go through SafeSport training. Additionally, all officers need to be registered volunteers with USBC (SafeSport training and background screening through NCSI).

Athlete Safety/RVP Handbook

Become a Registered Volunteer

Do your bowlers know…lane courtesy? You can print copies of the Etiquette Guidelines to hand out to your bowlers.

Do your bowlers know…about online membership? Memberships can be purchased online through Join USBC on BOWL.com prior to leagues starting.

Mythbusters
Busted, plausible, or confirmed:

Myth #30: A team or individual can pre-bowl for the first league session.
Myth #45: A bowler must bowl before their absentee score can be used.
Myth #34: Once adopted, all league rules are final.
Myth #47: I should not vote if I do not like any of the prize lists.

Bowling Myths Answered

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