

December 2023

Happy Holidays from the Rules Team!

Last month, we discussed the following topics:

- League finances
- Position Rounds
- Adopting your prize lists

If you missed last month's Rules Extra, please click [here](#).

This month, we will cover these issues:

- Roll-offs
- Playoffs
- Weather cancellations

If you are no longer a league officer, please forward Rules Extra to newly elected officers if you have their email address 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



Roll-off (also known as a tiebreaker)

Many leagues use the term roll-off for the championship playoffs when, in fact, a roll-off is a tiebreaker. A roll-off, according to [Rule 118](#), must be conducted when there is a tie for first place at the end of a segment or the season (unless co-champions are declared). Scores from a roll-off must be added into a bowler's average record.

Playoff (also known as the championship)

Most playoffs are connected to [split seasons](#). A split season is when a league divides the standings into segments with the standings starting over once the previous segment is completed. This is a great way for a league to add interest and to give teams the opportunity to move up in the standings and compete in the championship playoff.

Dealing with weather issues

Tis the season for weather-related problems to start happening. The CAQ's attached to [Rule 117b](#) and [Rule 117d](#) provide guidance to leagues when faced with weather-related issues.



HOT TOPICS



USBC COMPLETES CERTIFIED STRING PINSETTER SCORING RESEARCH – How does this affect my league?

The United States Bowling Congress has released its most recent scoring research report related to string pinsetters. The report concludes there is no statistically significant difference between the scoring pace of USBC-certified string pinsetters and traditional free-fall machines.

Therefore, an average conversion between the pinsetter types will not be necessary. USBC has updated its playing rules to allow for the averages between pinsetter types to be interchangeable provided the string pinsetter has been certified by USBC.

The full report, which can be found [here](#), details the results of the participant testing and explains the differences in the current findings versus previous scoring research that utilized the USBC's automated Bowlscore ramp.

String Pinsetters FAQ



SCORE YOUR FREE USBC MEMBERSHIP

With the **Element3 Health**
benefit for qualifying
Medicare Advantage or
Medicare Supplement Plans.

[SIGN UP NOW >](#)

Element3 Health, in partnership with USBC, is now offering an incredible opportunity for USBC members to have their membership costs covered through qualifying Medicare Advantage and Supplement Plans. This initiative aims to enhance the bowling experience for enthusiasts across the nation.

[Learn More About Element3 Health](#)



DON'T FORGET!

Don't forget... to forward any new bowler membership application cards and any applicable fees to the local association no later than 30 days after receipt.



DO YOUR BOWLERS KNOW?

Do your bowlers know... the league procedure for canceling for inclement weather? This is the time to reinforce the league procedures for doing so.

SafeSport Training Update

The U.S. Center for SafeSport continues to play an important role by offering additional training for parents and youth.

Parent Training Resources

Parents are an important part of the solution as we all work together to prevent abuse in sports. Our Parent Guide to Misconduct in Sports is designed for parents of athletes of all ages. This FREE online training course explains the issues of misconduct in sports and helps parents ensure their children have positive and safe sports experiences.

Parent Guide to Misconduct in Sports



Youth Athlete Resources

The U.S. Center for SafeSport now has two free online courses for children of varied ages and their parents or caregivers. These courses introduce minor athletes to the importance of positive, welcoming environments in which bullying and abuse are not tolerated. The courses also let course takers know where to report abuse or misconduct if it occurs.

For all members taking SafeSport training, it is imperative to go through BOWL.com's Athlete Safety Portal. Visit [BOWL.com](https://www.bowl.com), under the USBC heading, and click on Athlete Portal in the drop down. Enter your Community Login, and you will be taken to your exclusive Athlete Safety page from which you will access SafeSport training and your NCSI background screening.

As a reminder, all [league officers of Youth or Adult/Youth leagues](#) must be compliant with the annual SafeSport training and have a current background screening (done every two years).

[Bowlers 18 or older who are participating in a Youth or Adult/Youth League](#) must be compliant with the annual SafeSport training requirements.



Busted, plausible, or confirmed:

MYTH #33: Ties in standings can be broken with total pins.

MYTH #41: The team winning the most segments in a split season league is the league champion.

MYTH #48: A playoff and a roll-off are the same thing.

Bowling Myths Answered

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

A promotional banner for the Lanetalk app. On the left, it says "USBC MEMBERS GET MORE!" in bold, with "GET MORE!" in green. In the center, it says "MORE STATISTICS. MORE INSIGHTS. GREAT FUN!" in bold. To the right, a man with curly hair holds a smartphone displaying a bowling score comparison screen. On the far right, it says "Download the app for free" with a green circular icon containing a bowling ball and the text "Lanetalk" below it.