

October 2025

Last month, we discussed the following topics:

- Rules concerning absentee and vacancy scores
- How to adopt a prize list
- Tools available to assist in your league operations

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

This month, we will cover the following topics:

- Your role as league president
- Adding and dropping teams
- Team and roster definitions

If you are no longer a league officer, please forward the 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 the Rules Extra via email to your fellow officers and league members.



Hey, league presidents!!!!

It's hard to understate the importance of the role you, as league president, play in the operations of the league. You are the **CHIEF OFFICER** of the league. Now, before that statement goes to your head...let's talk about some areas where the actions, or inactions, of the league president can affect the league significantly.

Bonding

As one of the most visible benefits USBC provides to our leagues, the actions of the league president are so very important in protecting the league should there be a loss. [Rule 104b](#) requires you to verify the league deposits EACH MONTH. We provide a form that you can use to verify the accuracy and timeliness of the league deposits each month. Access that form [here](#). It is also your responsibility to ensure that the league bank statement is sent to you each month. If your league is using in-center banking, the center is to provide you with a statement each month showing all deposits made on behalf of your league.

History shows that the most frequent contributing factor when a league incurs a loss of funds and files a claim under the bonding policy is the failure of the league president to perform this simple verification of the league account on a monthly basis.

Committees

The president is responsible to name, at minimum, the following committees:

Prize Committee – This committee is charged with submitting multiple prize list options to the league for adoption by the fifth session of the season.

Audit Committee – Often the most overlooked of the required committees, the audit committee is required to perform at least one audit no earlier than one month prior to the distribution of the prize fund. We provide tools for the Audit Committee to use such as a [sample worksheet](#) and [audit process instructions](#).

Take the time to learn [your responsibilities](#) to help the league operate successfully.

About adding or losing teams

The Rules team receives multiple inquiries about teams, rosters, legal lineups and what to do when a league gains or loses a team. Do you know the difference between a team roster and playing strength? What about lineups, legal lineups, substitutes and additional players? The following links answer many of the questions we receive.

Teams and Rosters

Adding and Dropping Teams

USBC Memberships Purchased on BOWL.com

The demand for doing things online continues to increase, and the number of USBC memberships purchased online continues to reflect this trend.

Through September, memberships purchased online are up significantly versus last season. This efficiency is helpful to both bowlers and league officers, but we want to remind you that **ALL PARTICIPANTS** (including substitutes) of a certified league must be USBC members in order for your league to be certified.

Please verify that all bowlers participating in your leagues are current (2025-2026) USBC members.



League Certification Applications and USBC Membership Applications & funds are to be submitted to your local USBC association office within 30 days after the league begins to bowl. See [Rule 104d](#). Please verify that this is being done in a timely manner.



Do your bowlers know...

Rule 18 allows only the use of a dry towel to clean the outer surface of bowling balls once competition has begun.



Athlete Safety/RVP

The Registered Volunteer Program is designed to create awareness about emotional, physical and sexual abuse through education and prevention policies.

All league officers must be RVP compliant if they are operating an **Adult/Youth** or a **Youth** league. These consist of any league in which a minor (17 years of age or younger) is allowed to participate.

If you conduct a youth league or youth/adult league as a league officer, you must be a Registered Volunteer. You will need to successfully complete SafeSport training and a background screen through NCSI. In addition, you must follow all policies in the Athlete Safety/RVP Handbook when your competition allows bowlers under the age of 18 to participate.

By certifying an event, you are responsible for adherence to USBC's policies and procedures as found in the USBC Playing Rules book, Athlete Safety & RVP Handbook and all other policies and procedures. Failing to do so could result in USBC removing the certification status.

To learn more about the Athlete Safety/RVP Handbook, click [here](#).

To become a Registered Volunteer, click [here](#).



Mythbusters

Busted, plausible, or confirmed:

Myth #6: The league president must calculate weekly fees to verify the account.

Myth #7: The league bank statement is sent to the treasurer.

Myth #43: Extra bowlers on the roster are substitutes.

[Get the answers to these and other bowling myths.](#)

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