

SPORT BOWLING CHANGES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I want to run a Sport league. What would my league be required to do?

Starting with the 2015-2016 season, leagues only will be required to designate the lane condition as Sport/Challenge when they submit the league application to the local association. Leagues no longer will be required to submit lane tapes to verify the Sport conditions or register the league on BOWL.com

Do I still need a Sport Bowling membership to compete in a Sport/Challenge league?

No. Leagues starting Aug. 1, 2015, only will require bowlers to have a standard USBC membership, or a USBC Basic membership for Basic leagues, to compete in a league which is using Sport/Challenge lane conditions.

What are the reasons for the changes in the Sport program?

We not only want to encourage more bowlers and leagues to compete on Sport patterns, but also want to improve the average integrity of certified tournaments. The membership cost for the bowler and the additional work required by those running Sport leagues – submitting paperwork and having to pull lane tapes – were the biggest barriers to either starting a Sport league or reporting as a Sport league. Removing these barriers make it easy for leagues competing on Sport conditions to report as a Sports/Challenge league.

What types of awards are given to honor scores bowled in Sport Bowling leagues and tournaments?

Because verification of Sport lane conditions no longer will be a requirement, honor scores or achievements on Sport patterns will not be recognized as a separate category. USBC will provide special awards to those who bowl an honor score in most major USBC competitions, such as the USBC Masters and USBC Queens, since those competitions are bowled on verified Sport conditions and are the highest levels of certified competition.

Will Sport Bowling affect my average?

Sport Bowling conditions are more challenging and bowlers' averages on Sport conditions usually are lower. By designating leagues as Sport/Challenged, bowlers without a standard league average will be required to submit an adjusted average using the Sport Bowling Average Adjustment Chart found on BOWL.com/SportBowling.

What is a Sport Bowling Average Adjustment Chart?

Sport Bowling conditions are more difficult and research has shown bowlers have a lower average on Sport conditions. To ensure fair competition, the adjustment chart was created for bowlers only having a Sport Bowling average who want to compete in tournaments using standard conditions; if a bowler has an established standard average, that average shall be used for standard tournaments. The chart is not considered a "re-rate" of the bowler but to allow for a fair adjustment to what would be expected of the bowler during competition on a typical league and tournament condition. It does not supersede the abilities of a tournament director to further adjust any bowlers' entering average upward per USBC Playing Rule 319.

Why would I want to run a league where averages would be lower?

To help your bowlers become better. Sport Bowling conditions are more challenging, requiring bowlers to make consistently accurate shots and to know when to make necessary adjustments. Most major USBC events, PBA, PWBA and international tournaments are conducted on Sport Bowling patterns.

What lane conditions should leagues report as a Sport/Challenge league?

Any league pattern known or thought to be close to a ratio of 4:1 or flatter would be considered a Challenge or Sport league. This includes PBA patterns (Cheetah, Scorpion, etc.), USBC Open Championships patterns, World Bowling patterns or Kegel Sport Bowling patterns. Lane patterns will be available on the Sport Bowling Resource page at BOWL.com/SportBowling on July 1.

What impact will this have on Youth and Junior Gold membership?

The changes do not affect Youth memberships. Youth bowlers can compete on Sport/Challenge lane conditions with their standard Youth membership. Youth bowlers wanting to compete in Junior Gold qualifying leagues or tournaments still will need to purchase a Junior Gold membership.