

10 COMMON BOWLING RULE MYTHS

1. USBC rules are just guidelines and leagues can adopt a rule that supersedes a USBC rule.
 - a. USBC rules define the game. Leagues may adopt rules as long as they do not conflict with USBC rules. Many USBC rules allow leagues to adopt options and in this instance adopted league rules would take precedence. Otherwise, USBC rules are the default
2. A bowler can be added to a team's roster at any time during the season.
 - a. USBC does not have any rules stating when a roster must be completed. Team captains have the authority to add players at any time during the season, but must do so in compliance with the league rules. Leagues may add restrictions for adding players. However, a team must be allowed to add a player when the roster falls below the playing strength of the league.
3. League rules can't be changed after the organizational meeting adopts them.
 - a. League rules can be changed by a majority vote prior to the first ball of the season being thrown. After that, rules can be changed only with 100% written consent of the league board of directors.
4. Ties in final standings can be broken by total pins.
 - a. USBC rules prohibit ties being broken by total pins. A roll-off must be conducted to break first place ties. Prizes for other ties are combined and distributed equally.
5. A bowler can throw a shot with a pin lying in the gutter (deadwood).
 - a. A bowling ball must not come in contact with anything before hitting the pins on the pin deck. If the ball hits a pin lying in the gutter, the delivery counts but resulting pinfall does not count. This is also true when pins ricochet after hitting deadwood and knocking down pins. It is highly suggested that deadwood be removed prior to making a delivery to avoid losing score.
6. No foul is committed if the buzzer or light did not go off.
 - a. A foul occurs when a part of the bowler's body encroaches on or goes beyond the foul line and touches any part of the lane, equipment or building during or after a delivery. If a bowler crosses the foul line without releasing the ball, no foul is committed. Clothing and shoes are considered part of the body.
7. A vacancy score counts toward a legal lineup.
 - a. Neither a vacancy score nor an absentee score can be used to meet the legal lineup requirement. Vacancy and absentee scores can be used only when a legal lineup is present. Actual bowlers must be present to meet the legal lineup requirement. A league cannot adopt a rule to allow a vacancy or absentee score to count toward a legal lineup.
8. A postponement request must be made 48 hours prior to the scheduled bowling date.
 - a. Recent USBC rule changes allow requests for postponements to be made up to the time of the scheduled bowling, except for emergencies. An emergency postponement request should be made as soon as possible.
9. When a bowler withdraws from a league with sufficient cause, he/she is not entitled to any prize money.
 - a. These bowlers are entitled to a prorated share of the team prize money, based on the number of weeks paid. Bowlers withdrawing without sufficient cause are not entitled to any prize money.
10. Substitutes cannot be used for a position round match or playoff.
 - a. USBC rules don't prohibit this. However, leagues can adopt a rule to specify the criteria for substitute participation for position round and playoff matches.