



Position Matches

A position match according to USBC Rule 120 is where teams are paired according to its league position standings and games bowled count as won and lost. Much emphasis is put on position matches. Especially those held at the end of a segment. There are two things a league can do to disarm forfeits and protests:

- Remind league bowlers of any eligibility rules the league has so teams can ensure bowlers are eligible to participate.
- Notify the scheduled opponent if a team is granted a pre-bowl or postponement.

From a USBC rules perspective, position matches are the same as any other week with one exception, the match pairings are based on the team standings. This means:

- All substitutes are eligible to bowl, unless the league rules state otherwise.
- Bowlers may be added or removed from the roster unless leagues state otherwise.
- Pre-bowl and postponement requests must be granted when a team cannot field a legal lineup for good cause, an emergency or if the team is bowling the local, state or national championships.

Questions and Answers

Q: If games are bowled against the wrong opponent, can the games be rebowled or compared to the correct opponents?

A: No, games bowled against the wrong opponents stand as bowled.

Q: If two teams are tied in the standings how do you determine the match pairings?

A: When two teams are tied in the standings, match pairings are determined by using the highest scratch pinfall for scratch leagues and highest handicap pinfall for handicap leagues, unless the league has another method to break the tie.

Q: A team has not completed a postponement prior to position round, how do we determine standings?

A: Postponements are to be completed prior to the end of the schedule or segment thereof unless league rules state otherwise for unopposed postponements. If the position round marks the end of the segment of the league schedule the team should forfeit the games that were not completed. If the position round is not at the end of a segment, standings are calculated using the percentage basis.

Q: How are lanes assigned for position matches?

A: There are several possibilities, and a league can adopt the format its members prefer. The most common method is to schedule the first and second place teams on the first pair of lanes; the third and fourth place teams on the next pair, etc. Another possibility is to have one team captain for each match draw for a pair of lanes. The only basic requirement is teams be scheduled against opponents according to league standings. If the league does not have a rule on assigning lanes, the board makes the decision.

