



Pre-bowling and Postponements

Consistency is essential when granting pre-bowl or postponement requests. If one team or individual is allowed to pre-bowl or postpone and another denied for the same reason it may be looked at as favoritism or cheating.

To help, leagues should have answers to the following questions in their rules.

- What type of pre-bowl or postponement is allowed?
- Who grants requests to pre-bowl or postpone?
- What is the timeframe to complete a postponement?

What type of pre-bowl or postponement is allowed?

League rules cannot state that no pre-bowling or postponements will be allowed.

By USBC rules, team pre-bowling and postponements are allowed. This includes unopposed and opposed competition. League rules may require pre-bowling and postponements to be bowled in direct opposition. The league rules cannot require teams to bowl unopposed.

Individual pre-bowling and postponements are prohibited for adult leagues unless the league adopts a rule to allow for it. The opposite is true for youth leagues. Individual pre-bowling and postponements are allowed unless the league rules restrict it.

Who grants requests to pre-bowl or postpone?

To be considered valid each pre-bowl or postponement should be requested and granted. For adult leagues requests can be granted by a committee or the board of directors. The committee may be a single person and is commonly a league officer.

In youth leagues pre-bowling and postponement requests are granted by the league supervisor, unless the authority was given to the league official or a committee.

What is the timeframe to complete a postponement?

Leagues may adopt their own timeframe to complete unopposed postponements. It is recommended that this timeframe not be shorter than two weeks.

If the league does not adopt its own timeframe and for postponements completed in direct opposition, the postponement must be completed by the end of the schedule or segment thereof. A postponement request for the last week of the schedule or segment must be completed within seven days.

Other questions to consider

What is sufficient reason to pre-bowl or postpone?

With few exceptions it is up to the committee or board of directors to determine what constitutes sufficient reason. Any decision made the postponement committee may be protested to the league's board of directors.

Regardless of the reason, it is recommended that pre-bowling and postponements only be granted if the team cannot field a legal lineup.

Who is eligible to pre-bowl or postpone?

Unless otherwise stated in league rules, all team members and substitutes are eligible to compete during a pre-bowl or postponement.





League Postponements

On occasion it may be necessary for the entire league to postpone. In such cases it is important the league works with the bowling center to determine how the league should complete the postponement. It is also important the league members be aware of the procedures.

Who determines whether the whole league should postpone?

The league's postponement committee should determine if the league will postpone unless the league has already adopted a rule to handle this. In areas with frequent weather issues, it is recommended that the league adopt a rule to determine when the league will cancel and complete a postponement. For example if the local schools close, the league will postpone.

In the absence of a league rule it is recommended the committee poll the board members before making a decision to postpone the league.

If the league does postpone, the team captains should then notify their teammates.

We postponed league play, what options are available to complete the games?

Again the league should work with the center to determine the best option for the league and to determine lane availability. Possibilities include:

- Push the schedule back one week.
- Bowl another date.
- Let everyone complete a separate postponement.
- Bowl an extra game each week.

Note: Pre-bowled and postponed games shall be included in the bowler's average record as of the date of bowling

For more information concerning pre-bowling and postponements refer to USBC Rule 111.

