

## **Playing Rules** for **NLB** league sessions

*These rules apply to most NLB League sessions, specific variations of formats such as handicap, number of players on a team, starting dates, etc. will be detailed at the individual league page.*

\*\* Clarification may be added to these rules should it become necessary.

**RULES** All rules not covered in this paper will be governed by USBC rules

### **1) ELIGIBILITY**

a) Management of the "National League Bowling" reserves the right to accept or reject any entry in the interest of maintaining the integrity of the League.

b) Members of the PBA or LPBT, members whose memberships have not terminated more than three years prior to date of entry, former probowlers and nonmembers that tournament management may determine to be professionals, or any bowler who has won a National PBA title will not be eligible for the "National League Bowling". These decisions as made by league management are final. Bowlers who have competed in pro events within the last 4 years are not eligible.

c) Bowlers must have an ABC/WIBC /USBC average for a minimum of 1 of the last 2 seasons, either 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 winter seasons. Or at least 21 games in the current 2008-2009 season.

**2) AVERAGES:** For the first week bowlers will use their highest USBC / ABC / WIBC sanctioned league average consisting of at least twenty one (21) or more games for the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009 season.

a. A bowler having a current season average for twenty one (21) or more games in a sanctioned league as of Jan 1, 2009 that is ten (10) pins or more higher than the previous season's average must use the current season's average in this tournament.

b. A bowler who does not have a, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009 winter league average will set his or her average on the first day of bowling.

c. It is each bowler's responsibility to determine that the submitted average is correct. Failure to use the proper average shall disqualify score if the submitted average is lower than the actual average thereby resulting in more handicap or position standings will be based on submitted average if it is higher.

e. Sport bowling averages will not be accepted for this tournament.

f. League management may disqualify any bowler at any stage of the session if it is determined that the bowler has misrepresented any facts connected to his or her eligibility or in any way affected the intent of the tournament to be fair to all bowlers. It is at the sole discretion of the league management that these decisions will be made. Interviews may be conducted with bowlers, league and association officers who are familiar with, have bowled with, or have competed against a bowler in question in any leagues or tournaments.

g. Bowlers will use the higher average of right or left hand regardless of hand being used for this tournament.

**3) HANDICAP:** Handicap will be computed on a basis of 90% of the difference between each individual average and scratch average of 240 in each event. For the first week bowlers will use the highest average

of the last two (2) years.

**4) Length of League** , This league will run for 4 weeks.

**5) PLAY WINDOW**, This league session runs 4 weeks. The first week play window (when bowlers must bowl their games for the first week of the National League) starts on a Monday and ends Sunday. The second weeks window starts on the next Monday and ends on the next Sunday, the third and fourth weeks continue in the same manner.

**6) Team - signing in** A team will consist of 3 bowlers. Bowlers may enter as part of a team of 3 bowlers. Bowlers can enter as an individual bowler in which case the league will attempt to pair that bowler with others to form a team.

**7) Team members** A team may consist men, women, or be a mixed team. Team members do not have to bowl on the same local league. Team members can actually bowl in different centers in other states. The scores will then be combined for NLB scores and stats. The team captain will compile and send the team stats to the NLB site. This type of team does require more support information than a team with all members bowling on the same local league.

**8) Scores** A team will use scores bowled during regular USBC sanctioned leagues. Acceptable leagues must have 3 or more bowlers per team. Scores bowled unopposed during make up or prebowed schedules are NOT acceptable. Scores bowled unopposed during regular local league schedule is acceptable in leagues with an odd number of teams.

**9) How will scores be verified, - cheaters?**

When the team captain uploads scores he must also attach a copy of the previous weeks local league standing sheets. Either a copy from the secretary or copy, past and attach from league secretary.com. Some score systems and secretary software have the ability to print reports which be emailed or faxed. This part of the league will continue to evolve as we go along, but we will be very diligent about verification. It is the responsibility of each bowler and captain to supply what ever supporting information league management requires to satisfactorily verify reported scores.

A basic part of this league concept is the "**Other Game**" approach that encourages others to check scores. In the "**Other Game**", any person discovering and reporting an inaccurate score reported to the NLB league would receive all of the point, bracket and pot money the offending team would have received. Anyone could... **anonymously**... go online at National Bowler see reported scores and compare them to local records and a chance to ..**anonymously**.. collect a violating teams cash. The "Other Game" opportunity and information is to be posted at all centers with online league bowlers. To collect a violating teams cash the "Other Game" player will be required to sign and have notarized document stating that there is no collusion of any kind with anyone including bowlers of the violating team. The power behind this concept is the sport if catching someone and that most people who cheat have enemies. Bowlers joining the National League Bowling league are required to print out a pdf copy of the "Other Game" sheet and post it on the bulletin board in the center he or she bowls.

Through our other businesses our lawyers and we are well experienced in multi state cases. For this league the most likely step would be small claims court. These vary from state to state, in Michigan for example amounts up to \$3500.00 can be addressed in small claims. It's simple, quick, cheap, and no lawyers are needed. We in fact feel it would actually be very good PR to prosecute (not in small claims) a visible case to recover damages and show we are serious. Any cases **would involve actual cash plus damages** to the league which would far exceed any cash involved.

**10) Integrity OF HANDICAP System** The tournament is taking extreme measures to maintain the integrity of the averages and handicap system in the tournament.

a) Any bowlers who file entry forms with false information will face prosecution and legal action by the tournament for potential moneys lost and both current and future damages to the reputation and integrity of the tournament.

b) Maintaining the integrity of the handicap system is vital to the success of this league. We also realize that there are a few scheming people out there. The tournament will use all means available to make examples of those who try to cheat. Tournament lawyers are to prepared to engage any cheater and his or her lawyers to the maximum extent.

**11) POINTS** The league will use the seven (7) point system. Two (2) points for each game won, and one (1) point for total pins of all three (3) games.

**12) POINT MONEY** The weekly point money may vary by league. The value of each point will equal total point money divided by the total number of points.

**13) ACCEPTABLE LEAGUES** A bowler may bowl during any USBC sanctioned league that has teams of at least three (3) bowlers. Some NLB league sessions may be open to non-sanctioned local leagues.

**14) MULTIPLE LEAGUE ENTRIES** A bowler may enter multiple leagues at the same time.

**15) AVERAGE RE-RATING:** The league manager reserves the right to re-rate averages under USBC rules 319a, b, c, d, e. A bowler who has been re rated in any bowling event or tournament within the last 7 years must report this on his or her entry form and inform tournament manager before check in time. The bowler must receive a written approval statement form the league manager. Failure to report will cause entry fees and prizes to be forfeited. Tournament management may re-rate any bowler at their discretion.  
a) If new information calls a bowlers entry into question he or she may be re-rated or disqualified after bowling any part of the league. The disqualified bowler will forfeit his or her prize money and entry fees.

**16) STUDENT PARTICIPATION:** Junior bowlers over 18 may participate in this league. Collegiate League Averages, and Canadian Tenpin Federation League Averages will not be accepted for handicapping purposes.

**17) MOVING and LANE BREAKDOWN:** In the event of major lane breakdown bowlers are sometimes moved to other lanes or have to make up on a different day. Scores accepted for sanctioned USBC leagues will be acceptable for this league.

**18) NON DISCLOSURE and FILMING AGREEMENT** In the event the final stages of this league championships are developed into a reality program there may be a time interval between the end of the tournament and airing of the event. Finalists will be required to sign a non disclosure agreement which would apply in the event of that scenario. Finalists may be interviewed and filmed before, during and after the semifinal and finals of the tournament. Bowlers in this tournament will retain no rights pertaining to any interviews and images created during the production of the reality programming aspect of the tournament.

**19) LEAGUE FEE & REFUNDS:** League fees will vary for each league session.

**20) BRACKETS:** The league will offer brackets. The brackets will cost \$5.00 per entry in a standard 8 bowler / 3 game format. Bowlers will decide which brackets they wish to enter at the time they sign up to join the league. Payout will be standard, \$30.00 for 1st, \$5.00 for second, and \$5.00 for secretary. At that time a bowler must decide how many brackets they want to enter. If a bowlers wants to enter 2 brackets it will be the first 2 weeks of the session.

Examples;

- Enter 1 bracket, first week
- Enter 2 brackets, first and second weeks
- Enter 3 brackets, first, second, and third weeks
- Enter 4 brackets, first, second, third, and fourth weeks
- Enter 5 brackets, 2 places in the first game brackets, + second, third, and fourth weeks
- Enter 6 brackets, 2 places in the first game brackets, 2 places in the second game brackets, + second, third, and fourth weeks

Brackets will be assigned on a first to sign up basis. For example, if 18 bowlers sign in for brackets the last two will not get in the brackets and their money will be returned within approximately 10 days. As this

league format and software evolves bowlers should be able to get their bracket and pot winnings faster.  
\*\* A \$10.00 bracket may be added before the league begins.

**21) ACTS OF TERRORISM, WAR, FLOOD, ACTS OF GOD, EXCESSIVE TIME, etc.** If events beyond the control of the league make the completion of the session not feasible the prizes will be distributed in a fair manner in according to points accumulated