



Handicap Facts

The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) defines handicapping as the means of placing bowlers and teams of varying degrees of bowling skill on as equitable a basis as possible for competition against each other.

Does any handicap used by a league equalize competition?

The results of an extensive four year study of handicap leagues -- mixed, all women and all men -- disclosed that the handicap percentages 75%, 80% and 90% do NOT achieve this goal as illustrated by the results from the study as follows:

Handicap Percent	Championship Won by Team with Average Below Median in the League	Championship Won by Team with Average Above Median in the League
70	0 out of 100	100 out of 100
75	0 out of 100	100 out of 100
80	0 out of 100	100 out of 100
85	6 out of 100	94 out of 100
90	11 out of 100	89 out of 100
95	24 out of 100	76 out of 100
100	30 out of 100	70 out of 100

Even at 100% handicap, as the above chart shows, the higher average teams or bowlers still have a decided edge. Seventy out of 100 championships are still won by the higher average team when 100% handicap is used. An exact 50-50 distribution of league championships would result only if a 116% handicap was used.

You must always look at the difference in averages well as handicap. In the table the higher average team total is 73% or 223 pins higher than the lower average team.

As shown below, when both teams bowl their exact averages; the higher average team always wins unless the handicap is 100%, then the teams tie.

Base 200					Base 200				
Team A					Team B				
	Average	80%	90%	100%		Average	80%	90%	100%
Linda	120	64	72	80	Dave	150	40	45	50
Dick	115	68	76	85	Patti	167	26	29	33
Kathy	95	84	94	105	Scott	185	12	13	15
Sandi	142	46	52	58	Lisa	140	48	54	60
Total	607	314	352	393	Total	830	135	151	170
Average + 80% = 921					Average + 80% = 965				
Average + 90% = 959					Average + 90% = 981				
Average + 100% = 1000					Average + 100% = 1000				

