



Mythbusters

MYTH #1: The option that gets the most votes wins.

PLAUSIBLE: A majority is defined as one more than half of the votes cast. All decisions must receive a majority vote, unless otherwise stated in USBC Rules. A majority vote will always receive the most votes but the option/motion that receives the most votes does not always receive a majority. Motions normally are a yeah or nay vote but still require a majority to be obtained. If a motion receives a tie vote for yes and no, the motion dies, because no majority was obtained.

When three or more options are presented to the league to vote on, it is possible that the option with the most votes will not receive a majority. Common examples where this is possible include prize fund adoption and election of officers. When no majority is reached in this situation the option receiving the least votes is dropped and voting continues.

MYTH #2: A quorum is one more than half.

PLAUSIBLE: For every meeting except the organizational meeting, a quorum is defined as one more than half of the appropriate voting body. For the organizational meeting a quorum is defined by those present.

MYTH #3: The bowling center determines the length of the league schedule.

PLAUSIBLE: The length of the league schedule is negotiated and contracted with the center by the league officers. Ultimately the center will decide how many weeks a league will bowl. If the league is interested in bowling fewer weeks, the league officers can use lineage rate or league perks as bargaining chips to negotiate a shortened schedule. For example: The league wants to shorten the season by four weeks. The officers could offer to pay an increase in lineage to at least cover the lineage the center would have received for the four weeks. Remember the center also loses income associated with bowling (food and beverages) when the league does not bowl, so you may need to increase your increased lineage offer or suggest eliminating center perks, like free practice, a pizza frame, awards or trophies.

MYTH #4: The center's secretarial service includes all the secretary's duties.

PLAUSIBLE: When contracting with the center the league needs to ensure what exactly the center's service includes. Services range from simple score processing to award processing to year end average and end of season financial reports. Even though the center is contracted to complete the secretarial duties, the elected league secretary is responsible to ensure the duties are completed.

MYTH #5: A postponement request must be made 48 hours prior to the scheduled match.

BUSTED: Rule 111c was changed by the delegates at the 2010 USBC Annual Meeting to allow requests for postponements to be made up to the time of the scheduled match, except for emergencies. Effective August 1, 2010.





MYTH #6: The league president must calculate weekly fees to verify the account.

CONFIRMED: To know what should be on balance in the league account, the president must calculate the amount that should be on deposit weekly to know what should be in the league account when verifying the account monthly. Any variances, whether over or short, of what should be on deposit should be questioned. Click for a [sample verification form](#).

MYTH #7: The league bank statement is sent to the treasurer.

BUSTED: The delegates at the 2010 USBC Annual Meeting adopted a change to Rule 102c, requiring bank statements to be sent to the league president. Effective date: August 1, 2010.

MYTH #8: On position match weeks, if first place cannot move down in the standings, they bowl last place.

PLAUSIBLE: Position matches usually pair teams according to the league position standings, one versus two, three versus four, etc. However, a league can adopt a rule requiring first place to bowl last place if first place cannot move down in the standings. This would apply to all position match weeks unless the league rule specifies which position match weeks the rule applies.

MYTH #9: If my summer average is higher than my winter average, I must report it for tournaments.

CONFIRMED: Bowlers must report their highest USBC average of 21 or more games regardless if bowled summer or winter, unless tournament rules state summer averages are not considered. Effective date: August 1, 2010.

MYTH #10: I can use a Scotch Brite pad to clean my ball during league play.

BUSTED: Scotch Brite pads and other abrasive pads can be used before and after USBC competition. Once competition begins, these products cannot be used on bowling balls in competition or to be added to competition.

MYTH #11: I can put league funds into my personal account.

BUSTED: League funds can only be deposited in an account in the name of the league or with the center in a trust account in the name of the league. League funds held in a savings account cannot be transferred to an officer's personal account to write checks for the pay out. If the league does not have a checking account the league should payout in cash following the Bonding Procedures in Chapter 7 of the USBC Playing Rules and Commonly Asked Questions.





MYTH #12: When there are three candidates on the ballot for an office, the candidate with the most votes wins.

PLAUSIBLE: If the candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate wins the election. A majority vote is one more than half the total votes cast. As with any meeting, a quorum must be present. For example, if 27 total votes are cast, one candidate must receive at least 14 votes to win the election. The vote count is 10 for candidate one, 9 for two and 8 for candidate three. Since none of the candidates received 14 votes, the candidate that received the lowest number of votes (candidate three) is dropped from the ballot. Balloting continues for the remaining two candidates, until one receives a majority of the votes cast. It is possible for the vote to be tied (9-9-9). In this case, balloting continues until the tie is broken.

Remember, it is the majority of the votes cast, not the number of people eligible to vote.

MYTH #13: The final prize list is the league financial statement.

BUSTED: A financial statement shows all income and expenses, it is not just a report of who won the prize money. A financial statement must show all the funds received and all the expenses of the league. A financial statement should be detailed and the bottom line is the money that is left in the bank. The following applies to financial statements:

- Must be completed annually - Rule 102f-5.
- Each team captain receives a copy when prizes are paid.
- League fees and all other income including but not limited to sponsor fees, fundraisers, banquet fees, membership fees, interest collected must be listed.
- Total income less normal expenses determine the amount available for the prize fund.
- The prize fund is part of the financial statement and should detail what was paid.
- The financial statement should be kept on file with the league records.

MYTH #14: I can clean my ball with nail polish remover.

BUSTED: Acetone and non-acetone nail polish removers can never be used on a bowling ball. Both products change the hardness of the ball. For a list of products that are acceptable and unacceptable in USBC competition please visit the equipment specifications section of bowl.com.

MYTH #15: When a league requires bowlers to prepay the last two weeks of bowling, a player who must withdraw from a league is credited the prepaid amount against the required two weeks withdrawal fees.

CONFIRMED: USBC holds all prepaid fees are applied to any indebtedness when a bowler withdraws from a league, including the two-weeks fees required when not replaced during the time period. The bowler would not owe any additional fees upon withdrawal.





MYTH #16: The two-week notice required for withdrawing from a league is based on the calendar.

CONFIRMED: The countdown for paying withdrawal fees (Rule 114a) starts on the day the bowler gives notice. Two weeks are calendar weeks not two league sessions. Any league sessions held within the two calendar weeks from the day of notice must be paid for unless the bowler is replaced in that time period. A bowler cannot be charged if no league sessions are scheduled during the withdrawal period.

Example 1, a bowler gives notice after bowling on February 7.

- In a league that bowls every other week, the bowler owes for February 21 only.
- In a monthly league, the bowler would not owe anything; the next session would be in a month.
- In a league that bowls weekly the bowler would owe for February 14 and February 21.

Example 2, a bowler gives notice on December 15. The league is on holiday break until January 2. The bowler does not owe fees, because the league is not bowling during the two calendar weeks after notice was given.

MYTH #17: Substitutes cannot be used for a position match or playoff.

BUSTED: USBC rules allow a team to use substitutes in both instances. Rule 107c states a substitute is a bowler who replaces an absent bowler or bowls in a vacant position. Leagues often adopt rules to qualify substitutes for position matches and playoffs. Some rules require substitutes to have a specified number of games, while others may require the average of a substitute to be within a specified number of pins of the bowler who is absent. The most stringent league rules disallow substitute participation in playoffs and position matches. All of these rules are acceptable and can be enforced by leagues.

Team Captains are responsible to ensure all players entered in the line up each week are eligible. Team Captains must be sure all players meet all league qualification rules for position matches, playoffs and weekly play, including game requirements, cap rules and all players have current membership (Rule 104a).

MYTH #18: A team cannot be forced to use an absentee score for a position round or playoff.

BUSTED: A team who has an absent bowler must use the absentee score just like any other time in the season. The league does not have to allow the team to add a new player when a bowler is absent, only when a team has a vacancy (Rule 107c-9).

MYTH #19: Players can be added to a team roster anytime through out the season.

CONFIRMED: USBC does not have any rules stating when a roster must be completed. Team Captains have the authority to add players anytime 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 (Rule 107c-9).





MYTH #20: If I write "PROTEST" on the recap sheet the board must act.

BUSTED: To simply write "PROTEST" on a recap sheet does not give the league officers any idea what is being protested. In order for the league board of directors (officers and team captains) to take action on a protest, the protest must be in writing, signed, detail what occurred and filed within the time lines of Rule 119; an anonymous protest does not require the board to take action. A proper protest should be dated, state why the protest is being filed and what rules were broken.

MYTH #21: Handicap fully equalizes competition.

BUSTED: According to a four-year study of handicap leagues (mixed, all-women and all-men) the handicap percentages 75%, 80% and 90% do not fully equalize competition:

Handicap Percent	Championships won by team with average below median in the league	Championships 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

MYTH #22: At 100% handicap every team has a 50-50 chance of winning.

BUSTED: Even at 100% handicap, as the chart above shows, the higher-average teams or bowlers still have a decided edge. Seventy out of 100 championships still are 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





MYTH #23: It is harder for a higher-average team to win because the lower-average team gets so many pins handicap.

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

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
Jeff	135	84	94	105	Terri	188	9	10	12
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				

MYTH #24: If the 10 pin is left and the 7 pin slides from position and rests in the 8 pin position, it is not considered a 7-10 split.

BUSTED: Splits are determined by the pin position before delivery, not by where they end up after delivery. If this spare is made, the bowler converted the 7-10 Split.

MYTH #25: If a team does not bowl at its regularly scheduled league time, its scores do not have to be shared with the team it was supposed to bowl against.

BUSTED: Once scores are bowled, they are a matter of public record and can be seen unless the league rules or policy and procedures prohibit the sharing of scores. Any such policies should be added to the league rules.

MYTH #26: USBC rules require bowling shoes to be worn during USBC competition.

BUSTED: USBC's only rule relating to shoes is Rule 12, "Approaches Must Not Be Defaced." Rule 12 prohibits soft rubber soles and heels that rub off the approach. Today, many bowlers are wearing a tennis shoe on the push-away foot to give more momentum and keep from sliding. Tennis shoes that do not leave a residue on the approach may be worn. Bowling centers, leagues and tournaments may have their own rules regarding the use of bowling shoes.

MYTH #27: League rules supersede USBC rules.

BUSTED: USBC rules are the foundation of the game of American Tenpins. 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. The USBC General Playing Rules (Rules 1-18) are examples of rules that relate to the basics of the game and cannot be changed.





MYTH #28: A foul is committed any time a bowler crosses the foul line.

BUSTED: A delivery takes place when a ball is released into fair territory, according to Rule 4a. Crossing the indefinite line including walls, flooring, posts and ball returns before a bowler is in position for the next delivery constitutes a foul. Conversely, a bowler who never releases the ball does not commit a foul. For example, if during the delivery, the bowler loses balance and steps into the lane but does not release the ball, no foul has been committed.

MYTH #29: USBC Rules are only guidelines.

BUSTED: USBC Rules define the game. Rules 1 through 18 of the General Playing Rules have no options and cannot be changed by a league or tournament. However, there are many USBC League Rules and Tournament Rules that allow changes. Rule 100a allows leagues to adopt league rules that do not conflict with USBC Rules.

MYTH #30: A team or individual can prebowl for the first league session.

CONFIRMED: USBC Rules do not prohibit prebowling prior to the first session of the league. When teams or individuals are granted permission to prebowl, the bowlers must pay for membership prior to completion of the first series as stated in Rule 101a. Therefore, arrangements should be made with the league secretary for bowlers to purchase membership prior to completing the pre-bowl or the bowler can purchase the membership through BOWL.com.

MYTH #31: Youth can compete in tournaments using bowling balls with beer logos.

BUSTED: Beer logo bowling balls are USBC approved; however, legislation was recently passed to eliminate the use of bowling balls depicting alcohol in any USBC Youth tournaments. Other restrictions in USBC Youth tournament play are no equipment or apparel depicting tobacco, illegal substances, or inappropriate language or gestures.

MYTH #32: USBC provides receipts for payment of membership dues.

CONFIRMED: It is the perforated section on the right side of the membership application card. Complete this section and make sure the league secretary signs the receipt. This is especially important for those members that bowl in multiple USBC leagues and participate in tournaments. Without the receipt, you can expect a league secretary or tournament manager to ask for payment of membership dues. Anyone that bowls in a USBC league must complete a membership application card for each league and purchase membership or show proof of membership. A bowler cannot wait to pay membership dues "next time"; dues must be paid prior to the completion of the first series bowled in a USBC league according to Rule 101. There are some instances where a league is in another local or state association. Dues must be paid in each state and local association a member participates in. The receipt will verify payment of national dues in this case.





MYTH# 33: Ties in standings can be broken with total pins.

BUSTED: Ties in the standings cannot be broken with total pins according to USBC Rule 113. A roll-off must be conducted to break first place ties. Prizes for other ties should be combined and distributed evenly.

MYTH #34: Once adopted all league rules are final.

BUSTED: League rules can be changed by a majority vote prior to the first scored ball being thrown, even if after the organization meeting. League rules may also be changed after the first ball is thrown but only by written unanimous consent of all of the team captains.

MYTH #35: Leagues must grant postponements due to snow.

PLAUSIBLE: USBC holds that inclement weather is sufficient cause and therefore the team must be granted the postponement if the team cannot field a legal lineup. If the team is able to field a legal lineup the postponement does not have to be granted.

MYTH #36: You can throw a ball with a pin in the gutter.

CONFIRMED: A bowling ball must not come in contact with anything before hitting the pins on the pin deck. If the ball hits a pin in the gutter, otherwise known as deadwood, the delivery counts, but resulting pinfall does not count (Rule 6b- Illegal Pinfall). A downed pin on the lane is also dead wood. USBC recommends dead wood is removed prior to making a delivery so you do not lose your opportunity to score. Illegal pinfall can also occur when pins ricochet after hitting deadwood and knock down pins.

MYTH #37: You cannot substitute a bowler during a game.

BUSTED: Rule 107c-10 allows the team captain to replace a player during a game. The player cannot return to that game, but can bowl any other game in the series.

MYTH #38: A bowler gets zeroes if they bowl one or two games and quit.

BUSTED: A bowler cannot be forced to finish a series. When a bowler decides not to complete a series, the league absentee score is used for the bowler, unless an eligible substitute is used.

MYTH #39: Substitutes cannot be on the roster.

CONFIRMED: Only members of a team should be on the roster. In the case of a league having assigned substitutes, they should be maintained on a substitute list.





MYTH #40: Scores from one league can be used for postponements of another league.

BUSTED: Scores cannot cross over leagues. The scores being bowled during league play are bowled for that particular league and cannot be used for another league.

MYTH #41: The team winning the most segments in a split season league is the league champion.

PLAUSIBLE: A league may adopt a rule that declares a team that wins all segments the league champion. However, if there is additional money set aside for the teams in the playoff, the league must hold a playoff.

MYTH #42: If there is a tie for first place after position round a tenth frame is bowled to determine the winner.

BUSTED: If the position round is at the end of a segment in a split season league or the end of the season, a roll-off must be held. The roll-off consists of the same number of games using the same point system used within the league unless the league rules state otherwise. If the teams are tied after the roll-off, then an additional tenth frame is bowled until the tie is broken.

MYTH #43: Extra bowlers on the roster are substitutes.

BUSTED: A roster is comprised of regular members of a team. Extra bowlers on a roster are additional regular players. Substitutes, even assigned substitutes should not be listed on the roster.

MYTH #44: Lanes must be dressed before the league bowls.

BUSTED: USBC rules do not require lanes be dressed prior to standard league play. This is something the league should address when negotiating the contract for the season.

MYTH #45: A bowler must bowl before their absentee score can be used.

BUSTED: The league absentee score is used for a rostered bowler who is absent. If the bowler does not have an entering average in accordance with the league rules, the absentee score is 120 (Rule 105-e). A league may adopt a rule stating the vacancy score is used until a bowler bowls.

MYTH #46: No foul is committed if the buzzer or light did not go off.

BUSTED: A foul occurs when a part of the player'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 the bowler does not release the ball, no foul is committed. The players clothing and shoes are considered part of the body.





MYTH #47: I should not vote if I do not like any of the prize lists.

BUSTED: You do not have to accept any of the options, but not voting is not the answer. Your options are "YES or NO" for each of the prize lists presented. You should vote NO if you do not like the options presented.

Unfortunately, most prize lists presented do not give a YES or NO option. Be sure to write NO on all prize lists submitted, showing that you do not approve any of the options.

If you do not vote, the number of votes cast is decreased making it easier for one of the options to obtain a majority vote and be approved.

For Example: The Prize Committee presents two top heavy lists for consideration by the league board of directors. There are 18 teams and four officers in the league. If everyone votes one of the options must receive 12 YES votes. If only 11 board members vote, one of the options must receive 6 YES votes.

MYTH #48: A playoff and a roll-off are the same thing.

Busted: A roll-off is conducted to break ties. A playoff is used to determine the league champion. For example if there is a tie for the third segment, the tie would be broken by a roll-off. After the third segment winner is determined a playoff could be held by all the segment winners to determine the league champion.

MYTH #49: A league can adopt a rule not to add roll-off, playoff and sweeper/fun night averages into final average records.

Busted: Rule 113 requires these games be included in averages, when the American game of tenpins is bowled. There is no option for a league to adopt a rule that these games are not counted in final averages.

MYTH #50: A vacancy score counts toward a legal lineup.

Busted: Neither a vacancy score or an absentee score can be used to meet the legal lineup requirement. Rule 105 states that a vacancy score or absentee score may only be used when a legal lineup is present. Therefore, actual bowlers must be present to meet the league legal lineup requirement.

A league cannot adopt a rule allowing a vacancy score or an absentee score to count toward a legal lineup.





MYTH #51: The president's verification of the league account is the league audit.

Busted: The president verification of the league account is a monthly duty of the president to determine the funds deposited and the funds collected each month balance. The league finances must be audited at least once per season, per Rule 102c. This process is in place to provide checks and balances to protect league funds.

The audit committee checks league records no earlier than one month prior to the league payout to verify league income, expenditures and balances. [Audit Instructions](#) and an [Audit Worksheet](#) can be found in [League Resources](#) section of the Rules page on BOWL.com.

MYTH #52: All finger and thumb holes must be used when delivering the ball.

Busted: Gripping holes are not required to be used during delivery. A bowler who does not use the gripping holes must be able to demonstrate, with the same hand, that each gripping hole can be used simultaneously for gripping purposes. A thumb hole that is not used becomes a balance hole.

MYTH #53: A bowler using the two-handed approach cannot use a one-handed delivery.

Busted: A bowler using a two-handed approach is actually delivering the ball with one hand. Therefore a bowler is not required to use only the two-handed approach. One hand may be used, provided it is the same hand used when executing a two-handed approach.

MYTH #54: League officers, including league managers, youth league supervisors and officials must have USBC membership.

Confirmed: Rule 102a-3 requires all league officers to have current USBC membership.

MYTH #55: A USBC Youth member can waive cash prizes and bowl as a member of a four person team in adult leagues.

Busted: A USBC Youth member can never bowl on a team of two or more players that pays cash or bonds as prizes.

MYTH #56: If I paid membership in one league, I do not have to fill out a card for another league.

Busted: Not only must a card be completed for each league you bowl in, you should show your payment receipt or membership card to the league secretary as proof of payment.





MYTH #57: By checking Standard/House lane condition on the League Certification Application my league is not a Sport/Challenge league, even though we use a tough lane condition.

Busted: A league using a challenging condition that is not certified as a Sport/Challenge lane condition, is still a Sport/challenge League.

As of August 1, 2015 the Sport Bowling rules changed. The previous requirements to certify a Sport/Challenge league were removed. Leagues bowling on a challenging condition must certify as a Sport/Challenge league by checking the Sport/Challenge box in the lane condition section of the League Certification Application.

If the box is not checked, the local association or USBC Headquarters may change the league designation to Sport/Challenge. If you have questions please contact USBC Headquarters.

MYTH #58: Our league is using a tougher shot than the normal house shot but not the Sport patterns available on BOWL.com; so the league is not a Sport/Challenge league.

Busted: A league bowling on any condition that is more difficult than a typical house shot is considered a Sport/Challenge league. Basically, if the league has asked the bowling center to make the lane conditions more difficult in any way the Sport/Challenge box on the certification application must be checked. Your league officers are responsible to ensure the proper lane condition was checked for your league.

MYTH #59: The league president must call a meeting if I ask for one.

Busted: Unless your request or protest is in writing an officer is not required to hold a meeting. When a meeting request is relative to an alleged rule infraction or a decision made by a league officer, a written protest must be filed as follows:

1. 15 days of the event during the regular schedule
2. 72 hours if the games challenged occurred on the last session of a segment or in the final two weeks of the season or a playoff.

